



PATRIOTIC PARTY IN TOWN CENTRE

Report by Adam Burling

HALESOWEN town centre will be the focus of Dudley borough's St George's Day celebrations on Saturday.

The entertainment starts at 10.30am with performances by the Sedgley Morris Men and Halesowen Scout Band. Maggie O'Hara will then lead a patriotic sing-along in Somers Square.

The line up throughout the day will include the Lauren Dion School of Dance, Pure Harmony, Rock Choir, Coseley Comets and the Theatre of Alchemy's baby dragon puppets.

Bakers of all ages are invited to enter the Great Halesowen Bake Off competition between 9am and 10.15am. The cakes will be judged later in the morning and sold off in aid of the Mayor's charities from 12.30pm.

Halesowen Library will have lots for children to do throughout the day including crafts and puppet storytelling sessions, dressing-up area, traditional games and tea party with cupcakes.

In the town will be children's fairground rides, craft activities with Dudley Council's Juniors at Museums Club, face painting, a birds of prey display by Skyhunters, music from a barrel organ and information stands.

Tickets for the tea dance at Cornbow Hall have all been snapped up and 150 dancers will be taking to the floor.

Parade

It follows a huge St George's Day parade in neighbouring Sandwell borough. Decked out in the red and white of the English flag, people came together to make a colourful spectacle on the annual parade from Stone Cross.

A motorcade was first to go, followed by walkers led by the Caledonian Pipe Band, regulars in the popular event's 18-year history. The procession went from Westminster Road along a two-mile route to Dartmouth Park.

Jeff Collins, one of the organisers, said a family day and medieval fair was held inside the park. The West Bromwich event used to attract 20,000 people but this year's procession was not that large. Mr Collins said: "I think some people have been reluctant to get involved in the parade because they see it as political or far right, but this is a non-political event."

He added: "If you are patriotic and English, you get this label that you are right wing, but it is nothing to do with that. It is just our culture and we want to celebrate it."

Colin Haynes, from Walsall, was among the walkers. He said: "I wanted to be part of it because I am English and patriotic." Paul Stevens, from Great Barr, was taking part in the walk with his daughter Kelly Stevens and her children. He said: "We are proud to be English and it is about time people started showing their patriotism."

His daughter Kelly called for St George's Day to be made a public holiday.

SUPER SEASIDE TRIP FOR CHARITY CONVOY



Black Country friends Dan Bonehill and Dan Fereday plan the route to Weston Super Mare for a charity convoy from Birmingham

A DRIVER from Rowley Regis and his friend will be hoping to show cancer a clean pair of wheels when they are joined by other drivers on a fundraising trip to a popular seaside resort.

Dan Bonehill, aged 19, and his friend Dan Fereday, aged 27, will be leading a convoy of cars heading from Birmingham to Weston Super Mare on June 7 to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mr Bonehill, who lives in Falfield Close, has been inspired to undertake the long journey by his grandmother Jane Bonehill's death

from cancer in 2011. The Tividale woman was aged 59.

He said he was planning to complete the trip in his Rover Metro, having initially considered doing it in a Volvo, though there would be a number of other older models taking part including various Vauxhall Astras and Novas, Rovers and Mondeos.

He is a member of the Rover Enthusiasts Club in the West Midlands and had been involved with other car clubs around the area and many of these enthusiasts would be taking part in the run.

However, Mr Bonehill said the event was not going to be a race but rather a gentle cruise down to the West Country at 60mph.

The convoy will be leaving at 9.30am from an as yet undecided location in Birmingham.

"I am looking to raise as much as possible but I am not setting a ball park figure. Everything will be a bonus really," Mr Bonehill said.

Donations to his cause can be made via the Macmillan Cancer Support website, while the fundraisers will also have a Facebook page for their seaside rally.

DRUGS

Cannabis farms found at properties

AROUND £50,000 worth of cannabis was seized after two drug farms were raided in the space of 24 hours in the Black Country.

Thirty plants were found at the property in Woodgate Lane, Quinton, by workers from an energy company. Police were called to the house after the discovery on Tuesday. That followed the discovery of 83 plants at an address in Baptist Road End, Netherton, on Monday. Officers found three rooms had been converted for cultivation.

Last week 600 cannabis plants were found at a commercial unit in Hereward Rise, Halesowen.

COLLEGE

TV stargazer is guest of honour

FAMOUS TV presenter and scientist, Professor Brian Cox OBE, will officially open Dudley College's new manufacturing and engineering campus.

He is the guest of honour for the celebrations tomorrow (Friday) at the £7 million Dudley Advance in Priory Road.

Professor Cox and Year 10 pupils from schools across the Dudley will have the chance to try out the new facilities. The stargazer will also deliver a lecture on 'exploring the universe through engineering and science'.

MARATHON

Capital run to raise money for the RNLI

KICKBOXER David Dancer will be pounding the streets of London on Sunday to raise money for Halesowen branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

Fourth Dan black belt Dave is the youngest son of Diane Dancer, honorary secretary of Halesowen RNLI branch.

Branch chairman Jean Hadley said: "Dave has always been a keen supporter of the charity, helping to collect in Halesowen town centre and taking part in sponsored white water rafting competitions."

He hopes to raise £3,000 and donations can be made at Dancers shop in Peckingham Street, Halesowen.

INSIDE

SEASICK STEVE PLAYS THE BLUES



PAGE 19

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CONTENTS	
MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
DANIEL WAINWRIGHT	9
FOCUS ON CRADLEY HEATH	14
THE FAST TICKET	19
PROPERTY	27
MOTORING	29
SPORT	39 & 40
CONTACT US	

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College faces axing up to 250 jobs

UP to 250 jobs could be axed by a college which has campuses in the Black Country and Kidderminster under cost-cutting plans.

Birmingham Metropolitan College says it is being forced to slash the number of posts due to a reduction in funding. The news comes just weeks after the college officially unveiled a £5 million makeover of its Hagley Road site in Stourbridge with a new building offering centres of excellence for engineering, health and social care and early years.

The college, which runs sites in

Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Great Barr and Kidderminster, needs to reduce the workforce by between 200 and 250s. Bosses say they hope this can be done through voluntary redundancy.

It's not yet known exactly how many posts will go at Stourbridge's Hagley Road site, Brierley Hill's Art and Design Centre and Advanced Technology Centre, Kidderminster Academy or the James Watt campus in Great Barr.

Andrew Cleaves, principal and chief executive, said: "These are

challenging times for the education sector and Birmingham Metropolitan College has not been unaffected.

"Government funding has reduced by a third in recent years and greater competition in the sector, combined with demographic factors, has put pressure on student numbers.

Efficiency

"These conditions have highlighted the need to focus on efficiency, by reducing costs where we can and improving the way we do things.

"Like other further education col-

leges, we need to reduce our operating costs and ensure the college is on a firm financial footing from which to grow in the future.

"We have informed staff that we need to reduce costs significantly, and regrettably, around 200 to 250 positions across our colleges could be made redundant by the end of the academic year. We are hopeful that any redundancies will be achieved voluntarily.

"Current students will not be affected and we are also aiming to protect our course offering."

Thug deserves long jail term, say judges

A THUG who led a brutal revenge attack against a man following a car crash has been told he deserves every day of his jail term.

Judges rejected his appeal against a 13-year sentence.

Shakeel Mohammed, aged 21, was the ringleader of a gang that beat up Shahid Khan using a baseball bat and a wheel brace after his car was involved in a minor accident with the victim's vehicle.

Mohammed, of Quinton, was jailed for 13 years in December after being found guilty of wounding with intent.

But on Friday he launched a bid to challenge his sentence at London's Criminal Appeal Court, with his lawyers arguing it was far too tough.

However, his appeal was dismissed by three senior judges, who said the punishment was 'not excessive' in light of the violent and premeditated attack.

The attack happened at Mr Khan's home on July 8 last year, following a minor collision between his car and Mohammed's.

Mohammed, of Welsh House Farm Road, had gone to the house under the false pretence of discussing what to do regarding the damage to his car.

Weapons

But instead he and his accomplices launched a savage attack on the victim, kicking and punching him and hitting him with the weapons they had taken to the scene. They then fled, leaving Mr Khan injured and bleeding.

Judge Simon Tonking told the court that, despite the serious nature of the attack, the victim did not suffer any serious long-term injury.

Mohammed's lawyers argued that his jail term was excessive in light of his youth, lack of any previous convictions and the relatively minor injuries sustained by the victim.

But, dismissing the appeal, the judge said that the gang had deliberately set out to cause serious harm to Mr Khan.

It was merely down to 'good fortune' that he did not suffer far worse injuries.

Sitting with Lord Justice McCombe and Mr Justice Nicol, he added: "This court is satisfied that the sentence imposed was entirely appropriate.

"It was not at all excessive."

Variety shows up to help school



Variety children's charity chairman Ralph Holden presents the keys to Old Park headteacher Gill Cartwright OBE

A SPECIAL school in Dudley has welcomed the arrival of a new minibus from the Variety Club.

Old Park School in Quarry Bank, were presented with the bright red bus after applying to the children's charity 18 months ago.

Charity chairman Ralph Holden met with head teacher Gill Cartwright OBE at the school to make the presentation.

Ms Cartwright said: "We're so pleased to receive the minibus from the Variety Club, which was able to

fund half the costs. An important part of the pupils' education is a wide range of exciting enrichment activities and the new bus will help the school to do this.

Links

"Trips out of school include weekly horse-riding, visits across a range of activities in the local community and integration links with other schools and colleges."

The school now has three buses for the use of the 136 students who

attend Old Park. The students, aged from four to 19, have learning difficulties and many have autism.

The Variety Club was set up in the UK in 1949 and was one of the first charities in the UK for children and young people.

The charity aims to improve the lives of young people.

Ralph Holden, regional chairman of the charity, said: "We are thrilled that the school will be able to take pupils out so they can enjoy activities in the local community."

Council tax –authorities criticised over bailiffs

BAILIFFS were used more than 20,000 times to chase unpaid council tax in parts of the West Midlands in a single year.

Six councils have revealed they referred households to bailiffs 20,345 as they were in arrears. It has sparked criticism from campaigners who say all alternatives should be explored first.

Councils have defended the use of bailiffs, claiming they never put 'undue pressure' on residents and ensure support is offered.

Walsall council chiefs called in bailiffs 11,505 times, compared to 5,087 times in Wolverhampton. Cannock Chase Council sent out bailiffs 954 times, while they were used 911 in Stafford and 1,026 in South Staffordshire. It happened 862 times in Wyre Forest.

The figures were released after a Freedom of Information request.

But Sandwell Council revealed last year that by the end of June 10,905 tenants were in arrears, owing a total of £3.05 million.

In February in Dudley the total owed by tenants in Dudley borough stood at £1.5m, with 60 being evicted from April to December last year.

Critics argue councils could still collect the same amount of council tax without having to use bailiffs. Charity bosses also estimate more than 23,000 families have fallen into council tax arrears in the last year in the Black Country and Staffordshire. They claim the figures show families across the region are struggling to make ends meet.

Legion counts cost after break-in bid

A ROYAL British Legion branch has been forced to shell out £600 to repair damage caused by burglars.

Stourbridge Royal British Legion was hit during a series of early morning burglaries last week.

Crooks did not manage to get into the premises in Enville Street but caused significant damage to a side door.

Club secretary Phil Hackett said: "Fortunately there is a metal gate behind it that stopped them from getting in. But there was damage to the door and the plastering."

Blunts shoe shop and Desinz hair salon in Market Street and the Butterfingers cafe were also raided. Two men, aged 19 and 21, have been arrested. They have been released on bail pending further inquiries.

Jessie has a star role in hit musical

A RISING star from Wall Heath will take on a lead role in the UK tour of Dirty Dancing, coming to Birmingham Hippodrome this month. Jessie Hart will star as Baby Houseman during the three-week run at the theatre. The 22-year-old actress recently graduated.

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New boss at zoo but questions unanswered

A NEW boss has been appointed at Dudley Zoo following the retirement of Peter Suddock — as the council's opposition leader calls for details surrounding his sudden departure to be made public.

Derek Grove has been appointed as zoo director. He has worked at the zoo for 30 years and has progressed to the top from beginning as a junior keeper. The 52-year-old most recently served as a senior curator.

It comes after Mr Suddock stepped down from his role as chief executive by 'mutual agreement' last week after 22 years at the helm. This followed his suspension while an investigation was carried out into his conduct. The zoo says the inquiry has closed and that no further action will be taken.

Mr Suddock's wife Jill Hitchman also recently left her post as head of media at the attraction.

Councillor Patrick Harley, who leads the opposition Conservative group in Dudley, said that as the zoo was partly funded by the public purse, people had a right to know why Mr Suddock had been suspended. He said: "I think the public have a right to know and should know."

Councillor Harley added: "Peter has served the zoo very well over the years. It is an extremely sad end to a distinguished career. He really dragged the zoo up into a 21st century attraction, it was decaying and numbers were in decline. Now the numbers are where we want to be for a Dudley tourist attraction."

■ Record numbers — see page 12

Women hurt as car hits signal

TWO pedestrians were injured in a road accident in Kingswinford in which a traffic light was brought crashing down.

One woman was hit by a red Kia, while another was struck by the traffic signal which the car had crashed into.

The crash happened in Kingswinford High Street shortly after 1pm on Friday when a woman aged in her 70s was hit by the car and suffered leg injuries.

The force of the impact brought a traffic light column down, striking a woman in her 60s and leaving her with facial injuries. Both women were taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

A fire crew and paramedics attended the scene.

Beer festival's boost for charities

HUNDREDS enjoyed the annual Stourbridge Beer Festival, which raised money for children's mental health charity, Young Minds, and the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Bungling thieves were rescued from roof

AN PLAN to steal copper from a roof came unstuck when the thieves had to be rescued.

Five men climbed onto the roof of the old Shennstone House care home, Halesowen, and started removing the copper and rolling it up before a police helicopter arrived on the scene.

The men had used a ladder to get onto the roof and were then unable to get back down. They finally had to be rescued by the fire brigade.

Gianni Desalerno, aged 25, of Meon Grove, Sheldon; Elliott Field, 18, of Bentley Grove, Wedley Castle; Jack Hudson, 24, of Spearnall Grove, Selly Oak; and Joseph Stewart, 22, of Nigel Avenue, Northfield, all pleaded guilty to theft.

They were each sentenced to nine months in jail,

suspended for 18 months, except for O'Connor who was sentenced to 12 months' jail, suspended for 18 months, due to a previous conviction for metal theft.

During sentencing at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said police were called about 11.15pm after a nearby resident heard suspicious noises.

Peering

The rooftop raiders were spotted peering over a ledge looking down into the garden when police had arrived. Bolt cutters were found in the garden, as well as gloves, a fork, and a shovel which had been used to pry the copper off the roof during the raid on July 23 last year.

Mr Searle said: "None of the metals were literally stolen, as they were not taken away from the building, but were clearly in the process of being taken away."

He explained that jumping on to a 'short roof' they used a pair of ladders to get to the main roof, but were stranded when they found they were unable to get back down.

When questioned by police two of the men said they had had a fight and had climbed to the roof to 'throw themselves off' as they were feeling suicidal, and the others had climbed up to intervene.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending Desalerno and Field, said: "This was ill-judged, not well planned, and extremely amateurish"

Fundraising match held as a tribute to Tommy

A CHARITY football match was held to pay tribute to legendary Black Country comedian Tommy Mundon.

The comic, who lived in Alexandra Road, Halesowen, died last summer aged 80 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Mr Mundon, who was a regular on the Midlands comedy circuit for 50 years, was much-loved for his Black Country comedy style.

On Sunday players took part in a keenly fought charity contest in his name, raising money for Parkinson's UK and the Dudley and District branch of Parkinson's.

It saw a Stourbridge FC All Stars side square off against their Halesowen FC Old Boys counterparts.

The game, held at the home ground of Stourbridge Football Club ended in a 2-2 draw and was attended by the comedian's family, including grandchildren Daniel, aged 10, Lucy, eight 8, and William, two 2.

Tommy's wife of 42 years, Val, and daughter Caroline Hickman, 38, attended.

Caroline said: "We had such a lovely day and this was something dad would have loved. He was a huge football fan, he loved West Brom but would always keep an eye out for all of the local teams.

Wonderful

"I spent my day helping out on the tombola and lots of people were telling me their memories of dad, how funny he was and how much he was loved. All of the family really enjoyed themselves, it was an absolutely wonderful day."

"It looks as though we raised a good amount for charity too, which is one of the primary reasons we want to help events like this.

"In general, people aren't completely sure what Parkinson's entails and people came up to me today saying what happened to my dad made them understand just how far it can change a person's life. I am glad that something so enjoyable can come out of something so horrible," Caroline added.

It marked the return of some familiar faces for both clubs, with former Glassboys favourite Adam Bastable managing the Stourbridge side, while former Halesowen boss John Morris took charge of the opposition.

Stourbridge chairman Andy Pountney organised the event in memory of both Tommy and his own father Dinky Poutney, who also had Parkinson's.

The club have held an annual charity match for the last five years. They received a £2,000 donation from the Football Association and a further £2,000 from local businesses before the whistle had even blown.



Tommy's grandsons Daniel and William with daughter Caroline and wife Val at the charity match



Members of Tommy's family lead the players out



Tommy Mundon in action before his illness

NEWS IN BRIEF

Town in bloom plants are stolen

AROUND £300 worth of plants have been stolen from a community garden to the dismay of volunteers who set up the gold-winning Halesowen In Bloom entry. About 60 plants have been stolen from the Fingerpost Gardens in Rumbold.

The plants were part of a scheme by Dudley Council to improve the town for this year's bid in the Britain in Bloom competition. Dudley Council's acting strategic director John Millar said: "This will be reported to the police and work will be carried out in due course to replace the plants."

Brothers in art feature at display

AN EXHIBITION featuring work by famous former Dudley Art School students has opened at the town's museum and art gallery.

The exhibition, Dudley Art School Revisited, focuses on the work of two former students, twin brothers Robin and Geoff Jennings, who went on to work as professional artists and tutors. The brothers were students during the Second World War. The display features work loaned by Janet Armstrong, niece-in-law of Geoff Armstrong, and Barbara Jennings, Robert's widow. It runs until May 16.

Lens firm enters administration

ADMINISTRATORS have been called in to a lens manufacturer in Lye which has faced tough trading conditions. Oakhill Optical Laboratory Ltd employs 20 people in Pedmore Road.

Administrators from FRP Advisory have been brought in to try to secure a buyer for the firm which has struggled during the past 12 months.

They said the firm would continue to operate as normal while a buyer is sought and that no jobs would be axed while the company continues to trade.

Partridges in a rare three join collection

THREE roul roul partridges have added a splash of colour to Dudley Zoo's bird collection.

Senior bird keeper, Ben Vanes, collected the trio, one male and two females, from Bristol Zoo. They have joined four males and one female to form a new breeding group.

Mr Vanes said: "They are settling in well."

They are found in the lowland rainforests of Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo.

Music show invite

HALESOWEN-BASED Halas Homes, which provides care and support for people with learning disabilities, is holding a musical show in the town next month. It is being staged at Benjamins in Birmingham Street on May 31 from 4pm. Tickets cost £5, available by calling 0121 550 8778.

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A READER asks: "Why, if mineral water has been percolating through volcanic rocks for millions of years to achieve its level of purity, does my bottle have a sell-by date of November 15?"

SOME forecasters are predicting a long, hot summer. In all probability we will enter it with an unpopular government and independence fever on the rise in Scotland. Are the water cannon ready?

OUR changing language. The Tory plan to allow housing-association tenants to buy their homes is hailed as a "revolution." Or, as we used to say, a bribe.

MIND you, it worked for Mrs Thatcher. She won power thanks to the support of Labour voters switching to Tory on the promise of buying their council houses at massive discounts. Thousands of families snapped up their homes for less than £20,000 and are now sitting on property worth £200,000-plus. The snag?



If you need long-term care at the end of your life, your assets will be confiscated by the proprietors of Mr Nasty's Home for the Terminally Bewildered while those tenants who resisted the urge to buy and have limited assets will be paid for by the State.

"WE'RE being utterly and profoundly dishonest." Historian David Starkey on both Labour and Tory promises that "you can have all the goodies of the welfare state if you only screw a little bit more money out of a few multimillionaires, and ordinary people won't be affected by it." Well said, that man.

ONE stern promise we can cheerfully disregard is this week's suggestion that foreigners will be asked to produce identification before getting NHS treatment. I doubt if there is an NHS doctor or nurse alive who would refuse to help someone in distress simply because they couldn't produce a passport.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Move to relax rules over council debates

COUNCILLORS will be given free rein to speak out on controversial debates, under new proposals to hold open sessions free of political allegiances.

Talks on issues such as the future of Dudley Hipodrome and the council's role in the West Midlands Combined Authority could become free of the party whip under the plans.

Proposals tabled by the UKIP group on Dudley Council would see three to four debates each year classed as 'open' sessions, where members would not be expected to comment or vote strictly on party lines.

Currently there are restrictions on the length of time members can speak and on their opportunities to reply to questions in the chamber during full council meetings.

Scrutiny

But under the proposals, put forward by Councillor Dean Perks, who is standing for election as a parliamentary candidate in Halesowen and Rowley Regis, members would be free to reply on numerous occasions during the debates.

Councillors moved the amended motion at the full council meeting last week. It will now be debated further within the council's scrutiny committees.

Dudley's UKIP group

By Andrew Turton

leader, Councillor Paul Brothwood, who is standing as a parliamentary candidate for Dudley South, said: "As a group we wanted to open the council chamber to open debates that can be held three or four times a year. This will allow large topics to be fully debated. "The current system is restricted and we feel all 72 members should be able to have an input and not limited on the amount of time they can speak. "On issues such as the combined authority we feel it's so important to have open and transparent debates. In addition we believe the right to reply, which is currently missing, is fundamental in helping a debate move forward."

Council spokesman Barry Hutchinson said the motion would go to the overview and scrutiny management board.

The Amazing Cannonball Kid!



Junior strongman Daniel Teplitski is a pint-sized powerhouse

STRONG juggler Daniel Teplitski may only be ten years of age but he's already flinging around 1.5kg aluminium cannonballs.

He is the country's only child strong juggler.

Daniel, from Quinton, is following in the footsteps of his father Oleg - a former juggler in the Moscow State Circus.

Proud mother Yvonne said the pint-sized powerhouse first showed his super-strength at the age of two. Yvonne, 45, said: "We have been around circuses for a long time but what Daniel does stuns us."

Daniel - whose father was a third generation juggler - began training in earnest aged seven, and now performs in shows with his mother and father's acrobatic academy, Elite.

Only a cruel twist of fate prevented Daniel from performing on Britain's Got Talent. Despite stunning judges at an initial audition, a Child Performance Licence, which gives medical and school absence clearance, did not arrive on time. His mother said: "He was heartbroken."

More than £1m raised for pet hospital

MORE than £1 million has been raised to pay for an animal hospital that will treat injured pets from across the Black Country.

The new PSDA Pet Hospital in Oldbury will cost £1.8 million to build and equip and will replace the existing base in Quinton.

It has also been revealed the new hospital, off Wolverhampton Road, will be called The Marian and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence.

Mr Marian Ionescu, a heart surgeon, and Doctor Christina Ionescu, a cardiologist, are both animal lovers and made a significant, but undisclosed, donation to the project.

PSDA's team of vets and nurses in Quinton provide more than 90,000 treatments a year and can see up to 190 patients every day. The new hospital will allow staff to increase these numbers by around 25 per cent to provide more than 112,000 treatments annually.

The charity has so far raised £1m towards the new hospital since launching its hospital appeal in 2011 but is asking for help to raise the remaining £800,000.

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Brolly gang robbers are put behind bars after crime spree

A GANG of brolly-bearing robbers who raided 13 shops in a 53-day crime spree have been jailed for a total of 27 years.

Ashleigh Evans, Marcus Morgan, Liam Bell and Trea Richardson often used umbrellas to mask their entrance to the shops, targeted in the Black Country and Kidderminster. Inside the supermarkets, convenience stores and electrical shops, they got away with around £145,000 in cash, £2,200 worth of cigarettes and cars worth £30,000.

Their spree began at Staples in West Bromwich when the group, armed with hammers and screwdrivers, threatened staff into handing over money from the tills. During the robbery, they also stole the manager's Mercedes E200, which they used as their getaway car.

The next target was Farm Foods in Princes End, Tipton, on April 27 last year. Entering the shop with umbrellas, they ordered staff to get on the floor, with one employee being punched to the face. Cash was then stolen from the manager's office.

Brandishing

On May 2, the foursome, brandishing golf clubs at staff and shoppers, stole cash from the tills of Townsure Products, Long Lane, Halesowen, before going on to target Subway in West Bromwich, within the hour on the same day. Five days later, they targeted the Post Office on London-derry Road, Oldbury. This time, they used a stun gun to threaten staff into handing over cash. Their next targets included Home Zone in Bearwood and Asda in Coseley.

A Ford Mondeo, stolen from Cradley Heath earlier that month, was used as the getaway car and was found abandoned nearby. A large quantity of cash and cigarettes were stolen from Asda in Netherton and three men ap-

By Dominic Bareham

proached staff waiting to get into PC World in Wednesbury, demanding to be let in.

One employee was punched to the neck and others were told they would be shot if they did not co-operate. On June 12, officers raided the homes of Evans, aged 26; Morgan, aged 21; Bell, aged 19 and Richardson, aged 22. Phones found at the addresses of all four showed calls between them and placed them in the areas of the robberies when they were committed.

Richardson and Bell were arrested at the time the warrants were executed, while Morgan went on the run for five months before being detained in November 2014. Evans was arrested on a flight back from Amsterdam.

Evans, of Vale Street, West Bromwich; Morgan, of Park Road, Tividale; Bell, of Belle Vue Road, Rowley Regis; and Richardson, of Grafton Road, Handsworth, all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob.

Evans, from Vale Street, West Bromwich, was sentenced to 10 years; Bell, from Belle Vue, Smethwick – six years and six months; and Richardson, from Grafton Road, Handsworth – four years at earlier hearings. Morgan, from Park Road, Oldbury was jailed for seven years.



Footage of two of the gang members entering the Farm Foods store in Tipton with their umbrellas on April 27 last year



Marcus Morgan



Liam Bell



Trea Richardson



Ashleigh Evans

Concern at new protest over mosque

AROUND 2,000 protestors will be coming to Dudley town centre in the second mosque protest within three months.

Britain First has revealed plans to hold a demonstration in the town on May 9 – just two days after the General Election – over plans for a new mosque on Hall Street.

Protestors carrying flags and banners will be joined by a marching band.

It will come just three months after the town was brought to a standstill following a demonstration by the English Defence League and counter protest, which led to many shops closing for the day.

Meetings

Britain First's deputy leader Jayda Fransen said: "The issue that we are going to Dudley about is this mega mosque and is obviously an issue that affects everyone, not just the citizens of Dudley."

Officials from Dudley Central Mosque and Dudley Muslim Association plan to speak to police about the march. Public meetings will be held with concerned traders and the community today (Thursday) from 6pm at Dudley Council House and on May 6 at the same venue.

Dementia workers focusing on shop

CARE home bosses are beating a path to a gift shop that specialises in goods for residents suffering from dementia. Mindful Gifts CIC opened its first branch, in King Street, Darlaston, last year. Founder Vicki Phipps, said: "We originally started as a gift shop selling gifts such as large piece jigsaws, adult colouring books and memory books. But we are now selling these to professionals who are looking for dementia-friendly activities."

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Chance meeting with modest Wolves legend Knowles really made our day

I TOOK my grandson Tyler to Wolverhampton. We travelled by bus, it had to be a double decker, sitting right at the front. Children go everywhere by car so a bus journey is a treat.

Arriving I had to inquire the way to the Wolves shop. Out of all the people in Wolverhampton the person was former Wolves star Peter Knowles.

He asked us a few questions about

Wolves but didn't reveal his identity straight away.

I can remember what a good player he was and how disappointed fans were when he retired at an early age, 24, to be a Jehovah's Witness.

He shook our hands, had Tyler's address, saying he would put something in the post.

A few days later he called at their

house, gave Tyler a framed football programme of September 3, 1969 of the Wolves v Spurs replay. In the Football League Cup of Cyril Knowles and Peter shaking hands. My son didn't realise who it was until he drove off.

We would all like to thank Peter for kindness.

P CHUTER
Stourbridge

Manor Way has to be made safer

I SAW the article re the need for a crossing on Manor Way (A456) by Halesowen Athletic and Cycling club. I believe the article is very well merited. The exit to the club is always worrying as visibility is not good due to the bend in the road and speeds are high.

There are a lot of young people leaving the club, either running or cycling, who are at risk. Some people take it upon themselves to cross over the barriers, which makes me shudder.

The alternatives are not great, crossing or going round the roundabout (where vehicles enter at high speed) to the left of the entrance. Otherwise it is a fair distance to the lights by the Black Horse. Anything that can be done to make this section safer is welcomed and I thank you and Hugh Porter for highlighting the issue so succinctly and hope it picks up some momentum for change.

S DIGHTON
Smethwick

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Town centre revamp is a complete mess

FURTHER to the letter from L Sheldon, how I agree with his observation regarding the placing of the Duncan Edwards statue. Together with my husband and two friends we were returning home from the Red Cone Museum and decided to detour to look around Dudley town centre. It had been years since either of us had been to Dudley. We agreed we wish we hadn't bothered.

Duncan's statue stands out like a sore thumb, in the middle of the new pedestrianised area. A masterpiece in itself, it deserves to be positioned in an appropriate spot where it can receive some respect. There sat people around the plinth, happily eating their takeaway food, blissfully unaware of the icon positioned above them. Then to top it all, there was an article a couple of days later that the multi-million town centre scheme has received high acclaim.

In our view it's as completely out of character with the surrounding buildings and is a complete mess. The only redeeming fact is that the fountain is being returned to its original place, give or take a few yards. Even that will look odd - the stately fountain at one end in stark contrast to Duncan's colourful statue at the other.

P POOLE
Willenhall

Astonished by police decision

AS a retired police officer, who after 30 years left in 1998, I am astonished at some of the decisions the modern police force have adopted in dealing with the detection and prevention of crime.

I refer to the news item relating to a thief in operation caught on CCTV (note I use the word thief and not shoplifter), the answer from the police being that they would attend some days later. I cannot imagine senior police officers in my day allowing that response.

I always try to defend the police service but, in recent years their decision to issue a crime number, downgrade a crime, or come up with the classification of 'not a police matter' without attending the scene is beyond me. No wonder there is very little support for basic policing.

I was part of the best police force in the world but I am afraid that position is quickly disappearing.

J EVANS
Stourbridge

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Museum hosts back to past celebrity show



The celebrities — Alistair McGowan, Tyger Drew-Honey, Miquita Oliver, Ann Widdecombe, Zoe Lucker and Colin Jackson

FAMOUS faces are ditching the celebrity lifestyle to get mucky at the Black Country Living Museum.

Former Tory MP Ann Widdecombe, impressionist and actor Alistair McGowan and athlete Colin Jackson are among the celebs going back in time for the BBC show 24 Hours in the Past. Others include actress Zoe Lucker, Outnumbered's Tyger Drew Honey and Popworld presenter Miquita Oliver. Fi Glover and historian Ruth Goodman present the show which airs at 8pm on BBC One from Tuesday, April 28.

The museum, which has also been used for filming dramas like *Peaky Blinders* and *Arthur And George*, is the venue for the first episode of the four-part series. Six celebrities are taken back to Victorian Britain.

Museum director of communications, Laura Wakelin, said the show was unlike any other they have hosted. "Not only was it filmed in real time over a 24 hour period - meaning there was no opportunity for re-takes and the celebrities bedded down on the floor of one of our 19th century cottages — but they literally turned our usually well-presented coal yard into a dump," she said.



Ex-MP Ann Widdecombe makes a point

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We won't sell out to the SNP – Ed



THERE'S a long-standing gripe with politicians that they never answer a question. Ed Balls is the opposite.

You can't shut the shadow chancellor up. I've often wondered why he's considered by his critics to be such a liability for Labour.

To his credit he answered something that Ed Miliband has so far failed to adequately address – the prospect of selling out England to the SNP.

The Labour leader is adamant there will be no Scottish Nationalist ministers in his cabinet. But a lot of people still want to know what concessions he would make to the SNP in order to keep him in power for five years, despite his protests in the recent televised debates.

Assurance

It might lock the Tories out of Number 10. But it would be electoral suicide for Labour. So when, on a visit to Wolverhampton, Ed Balls gave an 'unequivocal' assurance that Labour would not allow the West Midlands to be disadvantaged, it sounded as though the nettle was being grasped.

He said: "There is absolutely no possibility of any vote being put to Parliament or any measure in a Labour budget which would in any way disadvantage the West Midlands or any other part of England because that's what the SNP demand. No way. Unequivocal. I'm not going to do it and Labour isn't going to do it."

"We've been very clear we won't have a coalition with the SNP. They can't stand up for the interests of peo-



Ed Balls – not short on answers

ple in England because they want to break up the United Kingdom. We're going to put a vote to Parliament to abolish the Bedroom Tax. I want a Labour majority to get that through.

That's 162 words there that could well make an enormous difference to Labour's campaign in England. Of course it won't have done very much to foster good relations in Scotland, where Labour is facing the loss of dozens of seats to the SNP.

But that's the battle the two Eds have to face.

The polls suggest that even if they head up the largest party after May 7, it won't be with a majority.

If they cook up a deal with the SNP that hands concessions to a country with a population smaller than the West Midlands, there will be a revolt by Labour backbenchers who will face the wrath of their constituents.

No party wants to be in opposition. It is a miserable existence. But it must



William Hague out campaigning

be better than setting your party on to a path where in order to remain in power you have to betray the people who voted for you in favour of a country that rejected you.

William Hague has surely earned the right to head off into political retirement, having stood down as an MP after 26 years. But he was on the campaign trail in Dudley South last week and doing his bit to help the Tories hold on to this key marginal seat.

For what it's worth I'm glad he's still around. His final act in Parliament was to lead a Tory attempt to get a secret ballot to decide the future of Marmite speaker John Bercow. Critics called it a grubby plot.

It was an unfitting coda to a political career whose highlight was the introduction of the landmark Disability Discrimination Act. Getting out and about on the campaign trail is a far more fitting swansong.

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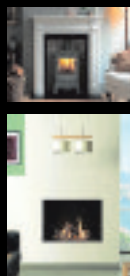
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£2m spent on agency workers in schools over six months

MORE than £2 million was spent on agency staff at schools across Dudley in just six months, figures have revealed.

Casual workers were brought into to cover sickness absences and maternity leave to ensure children did not miss lessons.

A total of £2.14m has been spent across the borough since the beginning of the school year last September to February of this year.

The head of children's services at Dudley Council described the outlay as a 'relatively small amount'.

Prolific golf shop thief is being sought

A BRAZEN thief is still on the run after targeting golf shops across the West Midlands.

Police forces from Staffordshire, West Midlands and West Mercia have said inquiries are still ongoing to track down the culprit.

The thief, who is thought to be in his forties or fifties, targeted Penn Golf Shop last week and stole three Galvin green jackets and a jumper worth £1,500.

Since then, up to 10 clubs have been in touch saying a man matching the same description had tried his luck.

Clubs in Sandwell, Great Barr, Worfield, Wrekin, Sutton Coldfield, Telford, Aston Wood and Shirley contacted Mark Butler from the Penn shop last week.

Two accomplices have since reportedly joined him during his latest raids. It is believed he has recently targeted shops nearly 140 miles away in Surrey for similar equipment. Anyone with information should call 101.

The figures, revealed under the Freedom of Information Act, did not include academies, which run independently, but related to primary schools, secondary schools and nurseries in the borough. The overall figure also incorporated special schools and referral units.

The biggest bill for agency staff was at the Thorns Community College in Brierley Hill, which spent £152,000.

More than 75 schools in Dudley have paid to use agency staff since September.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, who is in charge of children's services at Dudley Council, said it was important schools could replace absent teachers so children's education was not affected.

Absences

He said: "It seems like a lot of money but it actually isn't. Schools use agency staff to cover short-term and long-term absences. Schools have always had to do that and they control it themselves. Hopefully what they get is the best value for money."

Other big spenders in Dudley included the Coseley School, which spent £84,436 between September and February and Hillcrest School in Netherton, which spent £73,400 on agency staff. Of primary schools, Priory Primary School, Limes Road, Dudley, had the largest bill, spending more than £70,000 since September.

Pupils bowled over by England star



England cricketer Danni Wyatt, centre, meets pupils Eden-Mae French and Chanaye Powell, both 13, at Oldbury Academy

YOUNG cricketers from a Black Country school were given their sternest test yet as they came up against England star Danni Wyatt.

Members of Oldbury Academy's girls team were put through their paces by the international cricketer during a visit to the school.

The visit was arranged following the pupils' impressive performance in a Staffordshire Cricket competition.

They finished third despite their relative inexperience against the opposition.

Sports leaders at the academy are keen to see the girls progress further and see their success as an opportunity to get more girls playing the sport.

PE teacher Petrina Ellis said: "We are trying to get some leagues going. A lot of the girls are saying the England women's team are better than the

men at the moment. We are definitely trying to bring it in for girls. It is seen as more of a male sport but I've never known so many girls playing in the tournament."

Staffordshire-based spin bowler Danni, who was part of the 2013 Ashes winning team, put the pupils through their paces during a four-hour coaching session and also got involved with the action herself.

Massive road scheme faces the scrapheap

THE £65 million overhaul of the M6 Junction 10 island faces the scrapheap if work does not start within five years.

A 2020 deadline has been placed on the project, which aims to improve one of the busiest motorway junctions in the country.

The aim is to cut down on the chronic congestion that cripples the island and motorway every day, improving traffic flow by doubling the number of lanes and building improved bridges.

However, it has emerged that if the 2020/21 deadline isn't hit, the project will be frozen and traffic jams 'exacerbate' in the future.

Walsall Council highways bosses have come out fighting, promising that the ambitious project will go ahead as planned and be completed by 2020.

Under the initial plans, lanes going over the motorway will increase from two to four with the bridges rebuilt.

The M6 slip roads will be widened along with improvements to the Wolverhampton Road and Bloxwich Lane junction. There will also be some modification work to the Black Country Route.

In a planning application document, Rachel Telfer, senior transport planner at the council, warned of the potential impact of work not starting.

Buffery Park to host dog day charity event

A SPECIAL event to raise funds for charity K9 Search UK is being held in a Dudley park.

Paws in the Buffery is being held at Buffery Park, Prospect Row, on the May 4 bank holiday Monday from 11am to 5pm. The event being run with the Friends and Residents of Buffery Park will include a fun dog show, display and charity stalls.

K9 Search UK helps reunite stray dogs with their owners.

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Heartbreak as labour of love is grounded

A 22-YEAR labour of love by Black Country aircraft enthusiasts has been grounded due to a lack of space.

The six-strong team has spent tens of thousands of man hours lovingly building a full scale replica of the Balliol T2, the last type of aircraft constructed for the RAF by Boulton Paul at its factory at Pendeford, Wolverhampton.

But now the Boulton Paul Association, whose members have carried out the work, has been left homeless when so close to completing the epic project.

Cyril Plimmer, 87, helped launch the association after retiring from the firm where he became senior designer after joining, aged 14, in 1942.

Catastrophic

He said: "It would be catastrophic if we cannot finish this. I started work at Boulton Paul straight from school and did a lot of drawing changes on the Balliol. Twenty two years later here we are poised to put the finishing touches to it. I will have completed my life's work when it is finished, but it would be heartbreaking to fall short when we are so near and yet so far from the finish."

Terry Herrington, another former employee on the project team, confessed: "Unless we can find alternative accommodation there is the possibility that the aircraft would have to be scrapped."

Building of the Balliol T2 started with the cockpit section of the plane that was constructed from parts of an original version of the aircraft found at a scrap yard.

Members of the Boulton Paul Association started the build in 1992 and completed much of the fuselage before giving priority to other projects. They returned to the Balliol in 2008



Members of the Boulton Paul Association



Balliol replica while under construction

and have been working on it ever since but were unable to complete the project before being forced to vacate the site of their Heritage Project Museum at the former Boulton Paul factory in Wobaston Road when the company who bought the firm moved to new premises.

Members have been able to do some of the uncompleted tasks on the outer

wings at the engineering workshops of Wednesfield Engineering Academy. But there was no room for the plane that is still in a hanger at RAF Cosford with no facilities and the hunt is on for a location to which it can be moved while the outer wings and control linkages are fixed. Contact either herrington@btinternet.com or cyrilplimmer@hotmail.com



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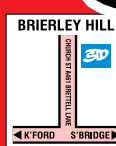
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Nine in ten pupils have got a place at first choice school

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, April 23, 2015

AROUND nine in every 10 pupils have got their first choice of primary school across Dudley borough and Worcestershire.

Latest figures have been released for how many pupils got their preferred school, starting in September. Dudley Council children's services department, overseen by Councillor Tim Crumpton, said 3,399 pupils — or 89 per cent — secured at a place at their preferred schools.

Figures also reveal that more than five per cent, or 214, got their second choice school while a further 70 were allocated a place at their third choice school.

Disappointment

Dudley Council strategic director, Tony Oakman, said: "We are pleased that all children have been offered a place and that 97 per cent have been offered a school of their choice."

"Unfortunately there will inevitably be some disappointment for a few families, particularly where parents have selected popular schools some distance from where they live."

Worcestershire County Council, which covers areas on the southern fringe of the Black Country such as Clent, Hagley and Wyre Forest, said 5,695 — or 90 per cent — of pupils had been offered a place at their first choice school.

Over in Dudley's neighbouring borough of Sandwell, 88 per cent of pupils were offered their first choice of primary school, a figure matched by Wolverhampton.



Zoo star sea lion Oba with keeper Nicky Dancey — he helped boost numbers to more than 20,000

Record numbers at the zoo over Easter

DUDLEY Zoo has received a boost through bumper visitor numbers over Easter — exceeding 20,000 visitors over a week.

The figures have been released just days after it was announced that chief executive Peter Suddock had retired from his post, after being suspended.

The attraction, in Castle Hill, marked a busy Easter holiday season with zoo staff saying it was the first time in recent history that numbers had broken through the 20,000 mark in a week. The zoo drew 20,191 visitors between April 6 and 12.

Peaked

Attendance peaked on Easter Monday with 4,934 people coming through the gates at the 40-acre site. Staff said a new £250,000 interactive exhibit in the 11th Century Castle, the arrival of two new sea lions and glorious sunshine all helped boost the visitor figures.

The zoo's new director Derek Grove said: "It has been a terrifically busy period for us with the successful opening of the Castle Creatures exhibit, the arrival of our two sea lions from France and on top of that we were blessed with wonderful weather."

"The feedback we've had on Castle Creatures has been incredible and our new sea lions are proving hugely popular."

"We have had a wonderful Easter and would like to say a big thank you from everyone at the zoo for the fantastic support we have seen," added Mr Grove.

The attraction has welcomed two sea lions from the south of France. Eighteen-year-old female Daisy — the first foreign animal to be transferred to Dudley Zoo via the Channel Tunnel — was brought in to keep 26-year-old Cleo company.

Then a new 14-year-old male sea lion, Oba — who weighs in at more than 37 stone — joined the zoo and has become a star attraction.

Castle Creatures, which opened at the end of March, tells the story of the Earl of Dudley's family and includes live animals.

It showcases how people during the medieval period lived in close proximity with species such as rats and bats.

Mr Suddock had been suspended on full pay as an investigation was carried out into his conduct but zoo officials last week said the inquiry had concluded and no further action was to be taken.

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New homes vision for old hospital is revealed

IT WAS a Victorian hospital which served a Black Country town for more than 150 years.

Long-awaited plans have been unveiled to redevelop the former Guest Hospital in Dudley, creating 157 new homes.

Wates Living Space will keep some of the hospital buildings for apartments but demolish the rest for a housing estate at the site off Tipton Road, under its proposal.

The homes, opposite the Black Country Living Museum, would include a total of 39 Dudley Council-owned properties. The rest would be privately sold.

Last week the first images of what the housing estate will look like were revealed at a public consultation held by the developer at the Dudley Archives and Local History Centre. It comes ahead of a planning application to be submitted to Dudley Council.

Bosses at Wates Living Space have warned there could be a further delay before work starts due to mine shafts that have to be located and filled.

The scheme has already been hit by delays. Seven years ago the hospital was taken off the hands of the NHS by the Homes and Communities Agency for homes. Four years ago Wates Living Space was appointed developer but mine shafts and limestone works have forced changes to the project.

The hospital closed more than a decade ago after most departments moved to Russells Hall Hospital. It had been built by the Earl of

By Richard Guttridge

Dudley in 1849 for injured miners, before chainmaker Joseph Guest turned it into a hospital.

Dudley Council housing chief Ron Simms said he was impressed by the plans. "I think it is a tremendous scheme that will be of enormous value to Dudley," he said. "It will help us meet affordable housing needs in the borough."

"It is very much in line with Government views on brownfield sites. By developing brownfield we are protecting green belt and that has got to be good for everybody."

A large mound has had to be incorporated into the plans to block noise from the development site to neighbouring homes.

The company initially wanted to build more homes at the site but were unlikely to get the backing of planning chiefs without including a 'noise bund' — a barrier to block traffic noise.

The developer says the proposal will retain and refurbish elements of the Victorian hospital, including the porter's lodge.

Fair for Age Concern

A SPRING fair will raise money for Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen is being held on Saturday.

The event will run from 10.30am at The Elton Centre in Stourbridge. There will be stalls selling cakes, toys and games, books, nearly new, jewellery, brick-a-brac and cards.

Competitions will include a raffle, tombola and bottle stall. Entrance is 30p.

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CRADLEY Heathens chief Nigel Pearson admits talks with Dudley Council represent "one last throw of the dice" in the club's search for a new home.

He said 'positive' discussions had taken place between the club and council leader Peter Lowe over the possibility of building a new track in the borough.

The Heathens chairman admits it is now a case of now or never in the club's long search for a permanent home.

"There are no promises but at least we will know for sure," said Pearson. "In this case we have a council leader who is making a genuine effort to reach a successful conclusion. We are in regular contact."

The Dudley Wood stadium was sold for housing in the 1990s. The team are racing at Birmingham's Perry Barr track.

Community hub at church

AMBITIOUS plans to expand a Cradley church and transform it into a community hub have been given the green light.

Providence Methodist Church will now create a new entrance at the building, in Colley Orchard, including an entrance ramp.

A 19th century former Sunday school building will be brought back into use and flats created on disused land. Dudley Council approved the scheme subject to conditions.

FOCUS ON CRADLEY AND CRADLEY HEATH

Work under way on £1.9m state-of-the-art bus station

WORK is gathering pace on a major £1.9 million overhaul of Cradley Heath bus station.

A sweeping roof showcasing the modern look for the new station, in Forge Lane, has been created.

Shelters are being constructed in a horseshoe-style design around the rear of the site next to the town's train station.

Construction workers are laying out and landscaping the route for buses in and out of the station.

Pathways and pavements are being put into place in the scheme from Centro, the public transport co-ordinator across the West Midlands. Construction work is due to be completed later this year.

Temporary bus stops have been erected in the town while the work is taking place.

Two stops are in Forge Lane with another in Lower High Street to cope with the 330 bus services re-directed from the station.

New passenger information and improved waiting areas will be created during the transformation of the interchange.

The work is being paid for through the Better Bus Area Fund, a £10 million pot to improve public transport in Cradley Heath and Brierley Hill.

Centro chairman John McNicholas said: "The new

By Andrew Turton

interchange will offer the world-class public transport facility our passengers deserve and have come to expect."

The new interchange will consist of six bus stands, four within the main building and two on a newly-constructed island stand. Automatic doors are going to be installed at each stand that only open when the bus arrives.

Officials say the new main building will feature a 'bright and inviting' waiting area for bus and rail passengers who can use the facilities. This includes new toilets, electronic passenger information boards, enhanced security measures and passenger audio information points.

For more information on bus timetables and services visit www.networkwestmidlands.com



Shelters are being constructed in a horseshoe-style design at the new-look Cradley Heath bus station, part of an

Youth choir have busy time ahead

A SINGING group for boys and girls aged between eight and 16 is gearing up for a busy season of performances.

Based in Cradley Heath, Pure Harmony is the junior section of the well-known adult choir Voices in Harmony.

Members will be singing at concerts as well as social and fundraising events during the next three months.

Their bookings include singing at Dudley borough's St. George's Day celebrations in Halesowen town centre on Saturday and also at joint concerts with the Warley Male Choir on May 9 at the Cornbow Hall.

Then they perform with Voices in Harmony on June 13 at Hasbury Methodist Church.

The choir is still on the lookout for new members to swell the ranks.

Choir leader Eleanor Rushbury, a primary school teacher, said: "There is still plenty of time for new members to learn the songs we will be singing at these events. The young people make good friends and love singing together."

Pure Harmony meets during term-times on Monday nights from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at Lawrence Lane Methodist Church, in Cradley Heath.

The music the young people sing is wide-ranging in style. There is pop, show tunes and gospel.

Children do not need to be able to read music to join Pure Harmony. For more information go to the vincthor.org website.

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Yee-haa! Jim celebrates at a barn dance



Black Country barn dance fan Jim Skidmore surrounded by his family to celebrate the cancer survivor's 80th birthday

IT WAS a birthday to remember for cancer survivor Jim Skidmore, as more than 100 family members and friends joined him for a barn dance.

With so many guests, you might expect there to be a mountain of presents Jim to open but the Wordsley grandfather wasn't interested in gifts on his 80th birthday. Instead, he asked everyone who attended his special party to make a cash donation to White House Cancer Support. Jim and his family have been helped by the Dudley-based organisation as he battled cancer over the past two years.

He was diagnosed with prostate

cancer in 2013 and needed almost daily trips to Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital for treatment.

As wife Mary no longer drove, it left her worried about how Jim would get to hospital but then she was told about White House Cancer Support.

Mary, aged 77, of Wordsley Green, said: "It was such a weight off my shoulders, they were wonderful. They picked him up every day and dropped him at the door."

For Jim the difficult times were made easier by the friendships that he struck up on his journeys. He said: "They picked up others along the way

and everyone was so cheerful and in good spirits, despite what they were going through. They were great."

Jim was given the all-clear shortly before his 80th birthday, and his family decided there could only be one way to celebrate. Knowing their father enjoyed a barn dance, his daughters Emma and Elizabeth organised a dance at Wordsley Green Community Centre.

Emma came from her home in Scotland, while son Warren jetted in from his home in California. The donations helped raise £800 for White House. Jim said: "It was absolutely fabulous."

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How do you fancy winning shopping vouchers for using your blue lid recycling bin?

Everyone in Sandwell who uses their blue lid recycling bin has a chance to win up to £100 of shopping vouchers with our new Picture BINGo game, starting later this month.

Following last year's food waste BINGo, the new competition focuses on items you can recycle in your blue lid bin.

The idea is to encourage people to use their recycling bin and think more about the household waste we can all recycle.

We know people use their blue lid bins but sometimes they put in items that can't be recycled. We hope the new Picture BINGo game will highlight the range and types of items that can be recycled such as:

- plastic bottles
- glass bottles and jars
- empty aerosols, foil trays,
- empty cleaning product bottles
- plastic punnets
- cans and tins
- paper and cardboard.

So, if you live in Sandwell and you have wheelee bins, look out for your Picture BINGo card which will be stuck to your bin



Mascot – Captain Recyclo



Eyes down for a full house – or should that be an empty one? Get ready for Picture BINGo



Match pictures in the game to win up to £100 in vouchers

some time between April 13-27. The game starts the week beginning April 27 and it runs for 12 weeks.

Each BINGo card has 15 pictures of items you can recycle in your blue lid bin.

Every week we'll release a picture of one of these items on our website, on Facebook and Twitter, in the local press, by email, phone and text.

If the item in the picture is also on your card, you can mark it off.

If you match four pictures, you win a £20 shopping voucher. For eight matching pictures,

you'll get a £50 voucher and the top prize of a £100 voucher for matching 12 items.

So please look out for your Picture BINGo card which will be stuck on your bin over the next few weeks, and tick off those pictures for a chance to win. Good luck.

Jason Holtom, partnership director for Serco said: "Residents told us what they liked about the BINGo scheme from last year and we've tried to go one better and improve it with more prizes."

"There are also more ways to get involved and the easy picture

theme which will help residents recycle more as they play."

The money for the scheme, which aims to increase Sandwell's recycling rate, has come from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The scheme is run by Sandwell Council and waste partner Serco.

The game is free to play and players must be aged 18 or over, must live in Sandwell and must be using the council's blue lid recycling service. The scheme does not include flats.

Winners will receive prizes provided they have been using their

recycling blue lid bin correctly before prizes are issued.

An enquiry line – 0121 569 6884 – will be open from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, from Monday 27 April onwards – you'll need to call this number if you win to claim your prize.

For more information about Picture BINGo go to the website at www.sandwell.gov.uk/bingo

● To see the BINGo picture each week, like us on Facebook – search for "Sandwell" or go to the website www.facebook.com/sandwellcouncil and follow on Twitter @sandwellcouncil

Picture



Recycle, Match & Win

Look out for your
Picture BINGo card on
your bin between 13-24 April

www.sandwell.gov.uk/bingo

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

serco

GAME STARTS 27 APRIL

?



Figures reveal shocking scale of gun crime across region

A TOTAL of 111 shootings where someone was injured in the West Midlands took place in just one year, new figures have revealed.

It comes after it emerged the region had the highest gun rate in the country, with a total of 540 firearms offences dealt with last year.

Guns were used 285 times to threaten someone, 38 where property was damaged and six as a blunt instrument. Some 293 incidents a handgun and there were 53 with ball bearing guns. Sawm-off shotguns were used 21 times and long barrelled shotguns on 16.

Computers are given as gift to school

A BUSINESS has supported an academy in Oldbury by donating more than £2,000 towards computer equipment.

Dart Products Limited recently awarded Ormiston Forge Academy £2,374 to purchase 12 Chromebooks for English students.

Dart, a manufacturer of food service packaging, is based in Garratts Lane, Cradley Heath.

Head of English at Forge, Dave Jenks, said: "We are incredibly grateful for this generous donation from Dart."

"These Chromebooks will make a difference to the way our students are able to access materials."

Greg Kettle, a shift supervisor at Dart and pupil at Ormiston when it was Heathfield School, presented the cheque along with his son Dylan, a year seven student at Forge. He was joined by Nicola Worsfield from Dart, Dave Jenks from Forge, and Principal Andrew Burns.

Chief constable Chris Sims said: "Gun crime is an emotive term. In the UK, where firearms are rarely used in crime, there is a considerable focus on cases when firearms are used. When the term gun crime is described there is perhaps a gap between what the gun crime figures record and the community perception."

"There has been a considerable reduction in gun crime as per the Home Office category and in the use of lethal weapons by criminals."

"The force is less affected by actual incidents of shootings of people with lethal purpose weapons, resulting in death or serious injury, than other metropolitan areas. he level of public concern about gun crime has also reduced compared to the past."

Figures have nearly halved in the West Midlands since 2007/08 when there were 974 firearm incidents.

David Jamieson, West Midlands police and crime commissioner, said the most important statistics were how many times weapons were fired and how many fatalities there were, not the current measure which records all incidents when a gun was suspected of being present, regardless of whether or not it was actually there.

Diamond couple wed hours after parents



Celebrating their diamond wedding are Barbara and Reginald Oliver

AS Barbara and Reg Oliver toasted 60 years of wedded bliss, they also remembered another anniversary for day before - when their parents tied the knot.

It was 24 hours before their big day that the couple watched as Barbara's father and Reg's mother married - in what was a remarkable couple of days for the family. When Charles Roberts and Jessie Oliver got together, they decided it would be a good idea to introduce their children.

Reg was in the Army at the time, so they suggested that Barbara write to him. A short time later Reg was demobbed and the pair met for the first time in 1953.

Barbara, aged 79, said: "They met because my dad and Reg's mum worked at the same firm."

But when they met, they both knew immediately that they were onto something special. "We clicked, that was it," Barbara said.

"He was always clean and smart, he didn't drink, and of course he fell in love with me instantly, didn't he?"

The couple, who live in Rough Hill, Rowley Regis, have two children, Mark and Susan, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

When Charles and Jessie decided to marry in April 1955, Barbara and Reg decided they would too. And so it was that an unusual double family celebration took place within the space of 24 hours.

Charles and Jessie tied the knot first at West Bromwich Registry Office, while their children married at St Paul's Church in Hill Top, West Bromwich a day later.

Barbara said: "He is technically my step brother, so it's a bit different. We have never strayed away from one another, Reg used to be away for a couple of nights a week driving trucks but he went for the family so he could give us a better standard of living. We have had our ups and downs but we battled through."

Sons of Rest building in use for polling day

A ONCE under-threat community building that was saved after a campaign will reopen for the May election polling day.

Dudley Council agreed to transfer the former Sons of Rest, in Halesowen, over to Hasbury Community Association following a two year campaign.

Campaigners fought to save the building amid fears it would be demolished to make way for housing. But following the decision it will now be opened up to community groups for meetings and activities.

The building will open for the first time in three years for the May 7 polling day for residents to cast their vote.

Campaigners said they were delighted the building, between Alexandra Road and Wall Well, had been put back to use.

Ward councillor Donella Russell will be casting her vote at the polling station. She said: "It is great news as this is the first time the building will be open. It is back open for community use which is just what we wanted."

As part of the community asset transfer, the group will be responsible for the building's maintenance and running costs. Dudley Council announced in 2012 that it wanted to sell off the site as it had been deemed surplus to requirements.

Villa charged over cup pitch invasion

ASTON Villa have been charged by the FA for crowd disturbance during their FA Cup quarter-final win over Albion last month.

It is alleged Villa 'failed to ensure that no spectators or unauthorised persons were permitted to encroach onto the pitch'. Reading have also been charged with the same offence after their game with Bradford City.

Both clubs have been given until today to respond.

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Rebecca

Classic on Brum
stage – Page 21



Blues dude

Seasick Steve gig
preview – Page 21



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Freddie Starr



Sunday, 7.30pm
 Robin 2, Bilston

The madcap comedy legend that is Freddie Starr is once again thrilling UK audiences with a brand new hilarious show which he brings to the Robin 2 in Bilston this weekend.
 Visit www.therobin.co.uk

Olly Murs



Sun, Mon, Tues, 8pm
 Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

Armed with new album 'Never Been Better', which includes the swaggering first single 'Wrapped Up', Olly Murs is taking up residence in Birmingham for three nights.
 Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Slade Convention



Saturday, from 12pm
 Robin 2, Bilston

Head to the Robin 2 this weekend for a celebration of all things Slade. The convention marks the 40th anniversary of the release of seminal film Slade In Flame.
 Visit www.therobin.co.uk

Noah Stewart



Saturday, 8pm
 Town Hall, B'ham

Noah Stewart, the dashing young Harlem tenor, is one of international opera's most talked about singers. He returns to the UK and the Midlands with a sensational new show.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

ROCK & POP

Olly Murs
 Sun, Mon, Tue at 8pm,
 £33.89 - £62.58
 Barclaycard Arena,
 Birmingham, B1 2PZ.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Slade Convention
 Saturday at 12pm, £9 - £28
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Band Of Friends featuring Gerry McAvoy
 Friday at 7.30pm, £15 - £16
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Higher-On-Maiden + Saxonised
 Thu at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Calabrese
 Thu at 7pm, £6.60
 The Slade Rooms,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
 Call 01902 552106

Von Herten Brothers
 Saturday at 7pm, £13.20
 The Slade Rooms,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
 Call 01902 552106

The Smyths
 Friday at 6.30pm, £13.50
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Future Rock Stars 2015
 Sun at 4pm, £10 - £10.50
 Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove,
 B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Mike + the Mechanics
 Mon at 7.30pm, £32 - £36
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

MHA Talent Presents Shawn Smith
 Sun at 7.30pm, £16
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

The Jack Ratts
 Saturday at 7.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
 DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Man Overboard
 Wed at 7pm, £8.80
 The Slade Rooms,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
 Call 01902 552106

A Black Country night out
 Tue at 7.30pm, £15 - £17
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

The Jar Family
 Saturday at 8pm,
 £6.50 - £13
 Lichfield Guildhall, WS13 6LU.
 Call 01543 262223

Black
 Wed at 8pm, £15
 Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove,
 B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

White House Cancer Charity Event
 Sun at 7.30pm,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

John McCullagh
 Saturday at 8pm, £8
 Newhampton Arts Centre, Wol-
 verhampton, WV1 4AN.
 Call 01902 572090

The Kilkennys
 Tue at 7.30pm, £17
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Chris Murray
 Tue at 7.30pm, £4
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Heidi Browne
 Tue at 7.30pm, £8
 Festival Drayton Centre, Market
 Drayton, TF9 3AX.
 Call 01630 654444

Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night
 Thu at 8pm, £2 (£1 singers)
 Brewood Cricket Club, ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Julie Felix
 Wed at 7.45pm, £11
 Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath,
 Birmingham, B14 7LY. Call 0121 472 4253

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm, £1
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
 Walsall, WV3 4BP.
 Call 07910 632695

Seasick Steve - SOLD OUT
 Wed at 7pm, £25.85
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
 WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Anti-Capitalist Roadshow
 Friday at 7.30pm, £10 - £15
 Irish Centre, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B12 0LN.
 Call 0121 622 2314

RNB & SOUL

Kwabs
 Saturday at 7pm,
 £10.00 Adv
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Jukebox and Bobby Sox
 Saturday at 7.30pm,
 £16.50 - £17.50
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

JAZZ & BLUES

Joe Longthorne
 Friday at 7.30pm, £22.50
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Blues Caravan 2015
 Wed at 7.30pm, £12 - £15
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

The Harp Live Jazz (April)
 Sun at 12.30pm, Tue at 8.30pm,
 Free
 The Harp Hotel, Albrighton,
 WV7 3JF. Call 01902 374381

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Noah Stewart
 Saturday at 8pm, £30
 Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham St George's Day
 Saturday at 6pm, £15
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Beyond Classical
 Wed at 5.30pm, Free
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Cavalleria Rusticana
 Saturday at 5.30pm, £10 - £26.50
 Conquest Theatre, Bromyard,
 HR7 4DU.
 Call 01885 488575

Czech Philharmonic perform Mahler
 Friday at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £44
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Family Concert
 Sun at 2.30pm, £10
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Blake in Harmony
 Wed at 7.30pm, £20
 Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

THEATRE

Dirty Dusting
 Thu at 7.30pm, £20 - £21
 Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

That'll Be The Day
 Friday at 7.30pm, £11 - £26.90
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

A Night Of Dirty Dancing
 Thu at 7.30pm, £17 - £21
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Dirty Dancing

Thu at 7.30pm, £20 - £55
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

The Bodyguard The Musical
 Saturday, Wed at 2.30pm, Friday,
 Saturday, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at
 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Shrek the Musical
 Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
 Sun at 1pm, 5pm, Saturday at
 2.30pm, £18.50 - £45
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

The Producers
 Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, Sat-
 urday at 2.30pm,
 £15 - £41.40
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Quercus
 Saturday at 8pm, £16 - £18
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

The Turn of the Screw
 Friday, Saturday, Tue, Wed, Thu at
 7.45pm, £7 - £11
 Blue Orange Theatre,
 Birmingham, B18 6AD.
 Call 0121 212 2643

Two
 Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
 £9 - £10.50
 The Rose Theatre,
 Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
 Call 01562 743745

The Producers
 Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, Sat-
 urday at 2.30pm,
 £13.25 - £15.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Poetry Slam
 Tue at 7pm, £4.75 - £6.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Feed The Beast
 Friday, Saturday at 7.45pm, Sat-
 urday at 2.45pm, Mon, Tue, Wed,
 Thu at 7.45pm, Thu at 2.45pm,
 £12 - £20
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Rebecca
 Mon at 7pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at
 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,
 £13.50 - £35
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The King and I
 Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
 Saturday at 2.30pm,
 £10 - £18
 Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

In Praise of Love - Terence Rattigan

Friday, Saturday at 7.45pm,
 £7.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Palach
 Friday at 2pm, 7.30pm,
 £5 - £8
 The Crescent Theatre,
 Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

The Pirates of Penzance
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
 £7.50 - £15
 The Crescent Theatre,
 Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

Manifest
 Saturday at 7.30pm,
 £5 - £7.50
 Town Drum, Aston on Carrant,
 Birmingham, B6 4UU.
 Call 0121 333 2400

Flying the Nest
 Wed at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
 £5 - £8.50
 Arena Theatre,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.
 Call 01902 321321

5 Soldiers
 Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, Sat-
 urday at 2pm, £20
 Birmingham Repertory
 Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

DANCE

The 2015 Lichfield & Burntwood Schools Dance Festival
 Tue at 7pm, £14
 Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

COMEDY

Freddie Starr
 Sun at 7.30pm, £18 - £19
 The Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Stewart Francis
 Friday at 7pm,
 £17.50 - £20.35
 The Wulfrun,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.
 Call 01902 552106

Andy Parsons Live and Unleashed
 Wed at 8pm, £15 - £15.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Dylan Moran: Off the Hook
 Thu at 8pm, £26 - £27.90
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Time to dream of Manderley again



Jealous bride — Mrs de Winter (Imogen Sage) and Maxim de Winter (Tristan Sturrock) in *Rebecca*, pictures Steve Tanner

LAST night I dreamt I went to Manderley again... has gone down as one of the most famous opening lines, featured in Daphne du Maurier's 1938 novel and the film made by Alfred Hitchcock two years later, starring Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier.

The psychological drama set on a Cornish country estate tells of a bride living in the shadow of her husband's dead first wife. Following the mysterious death of the eponymous Rebecca,

Maxim de Winter returns to Manderley with his young bride who finds herself consumed by jealousy when surrounded by memories of the glamorous Rebecca.

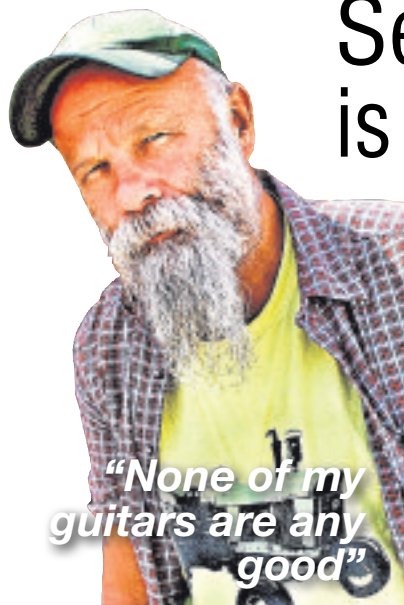
The new Mrs de Winter sets out to uncover the secrets lurking in Manderley mansion but finds herself in conflict with sinister housekeeper Mrs Danvers, who is still fiercely devoted to her late mistress.

Emma Rice, the award-winning

director of West End hit *Brief Encounter*, has adapted du Maurier's classic story for Kneehigh Theatre and it comes on tour to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Mrs de Winter is played by Imogen Sage with Tristan Sturrock as Maxim and Emily Raymond as Mrs Danvers.

See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk for further details or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.



"None of my guitars are any good"

Seasick Steve is sonic surfing

SEVENTY something singer and guitarist Steven Wold — AKA Seasick Steve — has been a cowboy, a carnival worker, a hobo, a busker on the streets of Paris, and a record producer, since he left his California home to ride the rails as a 13-year-old in the mid 1950s.

No wonder then that the bearded bluesman is also one of music's great raconteurs.

At the last night of his latest tour, the audience at a full Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Wednesday, April 29, can expect some entertaining stories amid the fiercely played guitar — usually homemade from odd components that have included car hubcaps — and raw bones blues from the seven albums he has released since his 2004 debut *Cheap* brought him to the attention of a wider public.

The latest album came out this year, *Sonic Soul Surfer*, including hit track *Summertime Boy*. To hear it at it's best, Steve has been recommending audiences to buy the vinyl version. Steve will be joined by similarly hirsute drummer Dan Magnuson, playing tracks from the new album and old favourites such as *Dog House Boogie*.

He said: "There's no comfort when I play. None of my guitars are any good. It's like with that hubcap thing, the bridge is just an old engine bolt and if you bump it, it goes completely out of tune. So it's like this battle to get through the song and when I get to the end I'm so relieved."

For further details see www.wolvescivic.co.uk but tickets will be pretty hard to come by for the hobo turned music hero.

Harry and Paul on tour with legends

COMIC actors Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse will be performing in Wolverhampton on their first joint UK tour.

The pair will be presenting their classic comedy characters in the Civic Hall on November 1 as part of the Legends! tour. Tickets cost £32.50 and £37.50.

The tour will also see them perform at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, on November 7.

Enfield said: "We've wanted to put our TV characters into a live tour for a while and now seems the right time to get together and do this. We've never performed them live before, so we're really looking forward to the tour."

Gloomy views to make you giggle

DOWNBEAT Irish comedian Dylan Moran, star of *Black Books*, brings his blend of cynicism and philosophy to Birmingham Symphony Hall on Thursday, April 30, as part of his massive *Off The Hook* tour.

Tickets cost £25 (plus fee), available from www.thsh.co.uk or on 0121 345 0600.

Other comedy highlights include Jimmy Carr at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on May 2, the same night that Stewart Lee is at the Symphony Hall. Tonight Andy Parsons is at the Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, and tomorrow his *Mock The Week* colleague Stewart Francis plays the Wulfrun Hall.

Shot of rock at The Vaccines gig

THE Vaccines have announced a date in Wolverhampton as part of their latest tour.

The indie darlings recently played a string of sold-out gigs at intimate venues. They will now embark on a nationwide tour to coincide with third album *English Graffiti*, which is released next month.

The tour will begin in Blackpool on November 10 before Wolverhampton Civic Hall hosts them on November 17. Tickets are £27.50. Call 0870 320 7000.

The Vaccines shot to fame in 2011 with debut album *What Did You Expect from The Vaccines?* then *Come of Age* followed in 2012.

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Feel the heat with this chicken in Peri Peri sauce

Doughnut, burger, or try both together in this tasty challenge

A CURSORY glance at the menu of The Woodman in Bilbrook and one thing is readily apparent.

The influence of Man Vs Food has extended far enough that it's reached a sleepy little village on the Wolverhampton to Shrewsbury line.

Man Vs Food is an American cuisine show, in the loosest sense of the term. Its host Adam Richman tours the USA visiting what he's proud to call 'pig out spots' – diners and restaurants serving junk in the way that only Americans can do it; large, gooey and fried at least once.

Often the food looks amazing, sometimes it's horrific, but one constant is that every week Adam attempts one of his nation's many restaurant food challenges.

Which brings us to the Woodman Inn on a very busy Thursday night. Part of the Flaming Grill pub chain, it boasts not one,

By Pete Cashmore

but three, food challenges. The most easily navigable is the Flaming Challenge Burger, which packs in two 12oz beefburgers, two breaded chicken breast fillets, spicy chilli beef, cheese slices, onion, crispy bacon, onion rings – and a double portion of chips.

The bold among you may favour the Trash Can Challenge, a giant rack of BBQ ribs, large cheese and bacon burger, chilli beef sundae, southern-fried chicken skewer, onion rings, corn, double portion of baked beans and a triple order of chips. Complete any of the challenges and you can get your photo on a Wall Of Fame.

Or, should you be completely insane, you can have one of the pub's rather excellent steaks served with ghost chilli sauce. This sauce typically registers more than one million of the Scoville Scale of chilli heat –

that's 900 times hotter than Tabasco.

But I haven't come here for any of that. I'm here to sample one of the pub's other American-style innovations – the doughnut burger. Which is – steel yourselves now – a beefburger patty served in a glazed doughnut instead of a bread bun.

Oddity

It's sweet and savoury, but not as we know it. I must admit that I approached this oddity with some trepidation, so I decided to round out my meal with Cajun onion rings and chilli beef-topped cheesy chips. In the end, though, my chips came un-chilled and devoid of cheese. The bar manager suggested that I try my chips with the ghost chilli dip instead. In fact, he practically insisted I do. And so I did.

Elsewhere, my fellow diners decided on a super-sized version of fish and chips called

The Codfather. It featured a battered cod fillet that clearly had a blue whale somewhere in its family lineage, a double portion of chips and peas; and half a chicken with Peri Peri sauce and chips.

So. What can I tell you about a doughnut burger? Well, my particular one was layered thus: half a glazed doughnut, tomato, lettuce, burger, cheese, bacon, burger, cheese, bacon, other half of glazed doughnut. The Cajun onion rings, a snip at just £1.49, were plentiful, and placed next to a pot of the hallowed ghost chilli dip. Well, I wasn't going to ignore that invitation. And so I got an onion ring, and I dipped. Turns out that ghost chilli sauce is really hot.

As for the doughnut burger, taste-wise yes, it works. The sweetness of the doughnut wasn't a squillion miles away from a brioche bun, and everyone is serving up their meat in those nowadays.

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Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

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Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.⁹⁵

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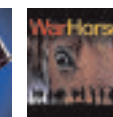
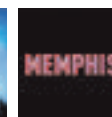
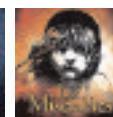
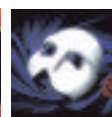
For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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CHOICE



Harry Redknapp

Play to the Whistle (ITV, 9.15pm)
A League of Their Own has got a lot to answer for. As well as giving us Mo Farah's trademark 'Mobot' move, it's also arguably responsible for a recent rash of sports-based comedy panel shows, including last year's A Question of Sport: Super Saturday, and this offering from ITV. So, if one of this week's star guests, football manager Harry Redknapp wants some advice on how to handle the banter, he can always ask either his nephew, Play to the Whistle team captain Frank Lampard, or his son, League of Their Own regular Jamie. Also joining question master Holly Willoughby, umpire Seann Walsh and captain Bradley Walsh are The Last Leg's Alex Brooker and broadcaster Piers Morgan.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 10.10 World War One Remembered. Gallipoli. 12.05 BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Paula Radcliffe: The Marathon and Me. 1.40 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Film: The Princess and the Frog. (2009) Disney animated musical fantasy. 6.40 BBC News. 6.55 Regional Programme. 6.55 Pointless Celebrities. Eight morning TV stars try to come up with the most obscure answers to win cash for their chosen charities. They are Good Morning Britain duo Kate Garraway and Richard Arnold, former This Morning presenter Fern Britton and The Wright Stuff's Matthew Wright, and four BBC Breakfast anchors past and present – Dermot Murnaghan, Natasha Kaplinsky, Charlie Styllt and Naga Munchetty. Alexander Armstrong is in charge, while Richard Osman is the man with the facts. 7.45 Atlantis. Pasphe tries to force Ariadne to receive the throne, and with Jason and Hercules powerless to help, Medusa and Pythagoras come up with a plan requiring an unimaginable sacrifice. 8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which up to five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws. 9.20 Casualty. Connie needs to prove her innocence in the Alfred case. Robyn helps two young lovers caught up in a house fire, while Lofy teaches a patient to have more self-worth. 10.10 BBC News: Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium; National Lottery Update. 12.00 The Football League Show. 1.20 Film: A Bronx Tale. (1993) 3.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. 3.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: The Crimson Wing: Mystery of the Flamingos. (2008) 7.20 Film: Sword of Sherwood Forest. (1960) 8.40 Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) 9.10 The Nature of Britain. (R) 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.00 Richard Harris: Talking Pictures. 12.35 Film: The Long and the Short and the Tall. (1960) Second World War drama, starring Laurence Harvey. 2.15 Fog It! (R) 3.30 Final Score. 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. 5.30 World War One Remembered: Gallipoli Highlights. 6.30 Gardeners' World. As everything in the garden begins to shoot up, Monty Don uses his ornamental grasses to demonstrate how best to lift and divide perennials. Plus, a third trip to South Africa. (R) 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the third and final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another two second-round matches are set to take place, including one to a conclusion, as the race to reach the quarter-finals continues. The commentary team includes Dennis Taylor and Terry Griffiths. 8.00 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are assigned to guard a vital telephone line through the night, but wake to find an unexploded bomb caught in the wires. (R) 8.30 Gallipoli: When Murdoch Went to War. Docu-drama telling the story behind journalist Keith Murdoch's letter to the leaders of Australia and Great Britain in 1915 that exposed the realities of the Gallipoli campaign. 9.30 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz, finding out what Sara Pascoe, Jack Whitehall, David Mitchell and Alan Davies know about such topics as knees and knockers. (R) 10.15 Film: Up in the Air. (2009) A corporate downsizing expert finds his emotionally detached lifestyle under threat from an executive with revolutionary ideas. Comedy drama, with George Clooney. 12.00 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.50 Snooker: World Championship Extra. 2.50 Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow. (R) 3.50 The Truth About Fat. (R) 4.50 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Animals. 7.15 Scooby. (R) 7.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.35 Hulk and the Agents of Smash. 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.35 Doc Martin. (R) 2.35 Film: Housewife. (1992) Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn. 4.35 Tipping Point. (R) 5.35 Regional Programme. 5.45 ITV News: Weather. 6.00 New You've Been Framed! Yearbook. Harry Hill looks at a typical year in the life of a You've Been Framed! star, taking in all the major events in the calendar, from Pancake Day disasters to chaotic Christmas. 7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the third heat of the obstacle-course challenge, all hoping to progress to the semi-finals. 8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the third audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – hope to uncover more of the nation's talent. Queuing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they are worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but while some of them will be deserving, others will undoubtedly hear the dreaded sound of the red buzzers just seconds into their performance. 9.15 Play to the Whistle. Captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests including Harry Redknapp, Alex Brooker and Piers Morgan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show. 10.10 ITV News: Weather. 10.15 Film: Inside Man. (2006) A negotiator deals with a hostage crisis at a bank, but a political fixer is sent to make sure secrets in the vault stay hidden. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington. 12.35 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV NightScreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 FIM. Superbike World Championship. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Frasier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) 1.25 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Ripon. 4.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 The Simpsons. (R) 5.45 The Simpsons. (R) 6.10 The Simpsons. Bart decides to steal a kiss from his crush at school after taking advice from Grampa, but the plan backfires. With the quest voices of Angela Bassett and Sarah Silverman. (R) 6.35 Channel 4 News. 7.00 For the Love of Cars. Life on Mars star Philip Glenister and renowned car designer Ant Anstead take another trip around the barns and across the nation test their classic motors to their former glory. They begin in Hertfordshire with an Aston Martin DB5 – the model driven by George Lazenby in the Bond film On Her Majesty's Secret Service. Over 10 weeks, they complete the bare metal restoration before the vehicle is sold at auction, and Philip gets to experience Roger Moore's DB5 from the cult 1970s show The Persuaders. (R) 8.00 The World's Most Extreme. The 10 most dangerous roads on the planet, featuring mayhem caught on camera in Russia, avalanches in the US and truck-driving nightmares in the Australian Outback. Previously seen on More4. 9.00 Film: Paul. (2011) An alien held captive in a top-secret American military base escapes and hides out in the van of two English comic-book geeks on a tour of UFO hotspots. The wisecracking extraterrestrial enlists the duo's help in getting back to his spaceship, but they are soon pursued by government agents and unwittingly become kidnappers. Sci-fi comedy, starring Simon Pegg. 11.05 Film: Role Models. (2008) 1.05 The Last Leg. (R) 2.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 2.55 Hollywood. (R) 5.00 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Puss in Boots. 10.45 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 11.40 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.35 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.35 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 2.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 3.30 Film: Columbo: An Exercise in Fatality. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Robert Conrad. 5.30 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 6.25 Britain's Horror Homes. A woman from the Norfolk village of Hapburgh whose house had to be demolished after coastal erosion left it suspended in mid-air on the edge of a cliff. (R) 7.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement officers Paul and Steve make an extraordinary discovery inside a locked bedroom, and immediately call for police back-up. Brian and Graham head to Swindon Town football club to recover a debt, while Paul and Ben have difficulty evicting a couple from a house in Kent after learning they have six children and nowhere else to go. (R) 8.15 5 News Weekend. 8.20 NCIS. Against his better judgement, Gibbs comes out of retirement to help Fornell and his daughter by reopening the case of an escaped convict who is putting their lives in danger. (R) 9.10 NCIS. A missing Navy lieutenant's car is found covered in blood, and the team discovers she had been profiling men to find the perfect partner. When further investigations reveal she had planned to attend a seminar at a local hotel, Ziva goes undercover in a bid to find out more. Meanwhile, Jenny makes Tony a secret offer. (R) 10.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A car that used to belong to a murderer is being sold off at a convention dedicated to serial killer memorabilia when the body of an auction house employee is discovered inside. 11.05 Last & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Tutuola link an artist's death to a similar murder – but another detective is assigned to the case and does all he can to exclude them from the investigation. (R) 12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Psychopath: The Devil's Disciple. (R) 4.00 Family Secrets & Lies. (R) 4.50 Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D 7.25 Top Gear 8.25 Don't Tell the Bride 9.25 Tatai 10.10 Happy Valley 11.10 Family Guy 12.40 Russell Howard's Good News 1.10 Tatai 1.50 Killer Magic 2.20 Some Girls 3.50 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Ice Age Giants 8.00 Wild China 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.55 The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill 11.55 Kate Bush at the BBC 12.55 Top of the Pops: 1980 1.30 Sounds of the Eighties 2.00 Let's Have a Party! The Piano Genius of Mrs Mills 3.00 Wild China 4.00 Close
ITV2
12.20 Britain's Got More Talent 1.25 Darcy Oake: Edge of Reality 2.25 Catchphrase 3.05 People Do the Funniest Things 4.05 Mr Bean 5.15 Film: The Vow (2012) 7.25 Film: Stormbreaker (2006) 9.15 Britain's Got More Talent 10.20 Celebrity Juice 11.05 Britain's Got Talent 12.20 Britain's Got More Talent 1.20 Hell's Kitchen 2.00 Crazy Beaches 2.30 Life's Funniest Moments 2.55 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.25 Mycliffe 12.40 Film: The Queen (2006) 2.40 Inspector Morse 4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Inspector Morse 12.20 A Touch of Frost 2.20 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
11.30 Pawn Stars 1.20 British Superbike Championship Highlights 2.25 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 3.55 Film: Smokey and the Bandit II (1980) 6.00 Storage Wars: Texas 7.00 Shed and Busted 8.00 Film: Dr No (1962) 10.15 Film: The Kingdom (2007) 12.30 Film: Sneakers (1992) 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Baby Daddy 12.30 How I Met Your Mother 1.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.55 Film: Star Trek: Insurrection (1998) 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Jane the Virgin 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 10.00 Film: Scary Movie (2000) 11.45 Rude Tube 12.50 Bodysnatchers: Nicks, Tups and Tattoos 1.55 The 100 2.45 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 Marry Me 3.55 Rude(ish) Tube 4.45 Make It or Break It
Film4
1.00 Destination Gobi (1953) 1.00 Dear John (2010) 3.05 Bug Malone (1978) 4.55 Meet Dave (2008) 6.45 The Women (2008) 9.00 Colombiana (2011) 11.10 The Hole (2009) 1.00 Silver (1993) 3.15 Close

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BBC1



**Poldark
(BBC1, 9pm)**

He stands up for the poor, he's won the hearts of the viewers, and he's very handy with a scythe, but it seems even Ross Poldark can't make a go of the Carnmore smelting company. Its collapse is good news for George, whose own business interests are doing so well, he can even afford to swan around on a new boat. However, it's Ross's turn to feel smug when the vessel is wrecked upon the rocks, right in looting distance of the poor... Meanwhile, Dwight deals with his guilt by throwing himself into his work, and there's plenty to keep him occupied thanks to an outbreak of 'putrid throat'. Demelza is keen to do her bit as well, but in the process she puts herself and baby Julia in danger.

10.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Athletics: London Marathon. **2.30** Sunday Politics. **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** TruTV. **4.30** The American Politician Cabinet. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. School Choir of the Year. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryside. John Craven and Elli Harrison are in the Peak District, where motor neurone sufferer Roy Tregear has his work for the RSPB and his aim to make the countryside accessible to all. There's a 50th anniversary celebration of the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, and a look at working on a farm where disabled and disadvantaged young people get to connect with nature. Anita Rani finds out how the Pennine Way has changed its name. **7.30** The Friday since its creation, and Tom Heap asks what can be done to prevent the rise of hayfever in the UK. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team pay a second visit to the castle in Cumbria, where items include an army of Action Man figures, a "skeletonised" pendulum clock from the 1870s, a working child-sized car from the 1930s and a ring carved by a general who may or may not be worth a small fortune. There's also an insight into Beatrix Potter's scientific watercolours of woodland plants and animals – and a bit of controversial work on the sea life fungi.

9.00 Poldark. Ross is forced to close the company, so George celebrates by buying a new ship – but his enemy soon gets revenge. Demelza returns when disease hit Trenwith. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 The Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Arsenal v Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium and Everton v Manchester United.

11.35 Film: Snake Eyes. (1998) Thriller

1.10 Film: It's a Boy Girl Thing. (2006)

2.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

7.00 **The Football League Show. (R) 7.30** Gardeners' World. **(R) 8.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.30** Athletics: London Marathon. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **10.30** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Triathlon. **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

6.00 **Athletics: London Marathon – Helen Skelton** Helen Skelton introduces action from one of the world's most prestigious road races, as elite athletes and fun-runners negotiated the 26.2-mile course.

7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Coverage of the evening's play on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the second sessions of two matches in the second round. All four players will return to the Crucible tomorrow night to conclude these fixtures, with former champion Shaun Murphy and 2011 runner-up Judd Trump among those expected to be involved. Presented by Jason Mohammad, with the commentary including Ken Doherty, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry.

8.10 **Coast Australia.** The team heads to the northern tip of Queensland to explore the Torres Strait Islands with the January 2012 spot where James Cook claimed Australia for Great Britain.

9.00 **Hunters of the South Seas.** Will Millard heads to the Indonesian village of Lamalera, where the locals have survived for centuries by hunting marine rays, dolphins, sharks and whales.

10.00 **Britain's Biggest Diamond Heist? The Inside Story.** Declan Lawn takes a journey into Britain's underworld to uncover the secrets behind the raid carried out over the Easter weekend in London's Hatton Garden.

10.30 **WIA.** The return of the spoof documentary. The team prepares for a visit by Prince Charles, and Nicky Slater is tasked with relaying the BBC's Wimbledon coverage. **(R)**

11.30 **Snooker: The World Championship.** Highlights of the concluding session on day nine.

12.20 **Snooker: World Championship Extra. 2.20** Sign Zone: Countryside. **(R)** **3.15** **Hot News.** Tasked with unravelling the Peto Detectives. **(R)** **5.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Bottom Knockout. **Street. 6.10** Bottom Knockout Street. **(R) 6.20** Bottom Knockout Street. **(R) 6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventure. **(R) 6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventure. **(R) 6.55** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventure. **(R) 7.00** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventure. **(R) 7.15** Sooty. **(R) 7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **(R) 8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 1.35** All Star Family Fortunes. **(R) 2.40** Britain's Got Talent. **(R) 3.55** Doc Martin. **(R) 5.55** Ninja Warrior UK. **(R) 6.50** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **7.00** **ITV News:** Weather.

7.15 **Celebrity Squares.** Shooting Stars duo Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, former *Rachel, with a Dash* presenter, comedian and actor Marek Larwood, Loose Women panellist Sherrie Hewson, writer and actress Jessica Hynes, funnyman Jay Rayner and *King of the Jungle* 2014 Carl Fogarty join regulars Tim Vine and Jo Wilkinson in the grid, helping contestants win cash prizes.

Warwick Davis hosts the *Noughts and Crosses* board game show.

8.00 **Vera.** When dock worker Noughton plunges from the roof of a multi-storey car park while picking up his daughter from her school prom, Vera immediately detects foul play. The team soon discovers a woman's suicide over the death of a young man, with everyone believing Owen was to blame, and the victim's father admits he wanted revenge – but his alibi is proven. The episode continues when Vera spots an inconsistency in the statement Owen's wife gave to the police, suggesting she's not certain of her husband's fidelity.

8.30 **ITV News:** Weather.

9.00 **ITV News:** Weather.

10.15 **Perspectives: Len Goodman – For the Love of Fred Astaire.** The Strictly Come Dancing judge travels across America exploring the extraordinary life of his hero, finding out how and why Astaire became one of the world's greatest movers.

11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, which included Northampton Saints vs Saracens.

12.30 **The Store. 2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.30** **ITV News:** Weather.

4.30 **ITV News:** Weather. **Highlights. 4.20** **ITV News:** Weather. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 *How I Met Your Mother*. (R) **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Family Guy. **9.00** The Simpsons. **12.00** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.50** The Simpsons. (R) **2.20** The Simpsons. (R) **2.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.50** The Road to Nowhere: A Journey Away.

4.00 Film: ParaNorman. (2012)
Premiere. Animated Adventure, with the voice of Kodi Smith-McPhee.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 **Three in a Bed.** Tax accountant Vincent Frostick hosts the first contest, inviting two other hoteliers couples to stay at the three-star Don Guesthouse, run by his formidable 81-year-old mother Irene in Snowdonia's historic mining town and where the Festing was set up as Cath Robertson and Dave Redfearn, who hope the decadent decor of the Graydon Hotel in Blackpool will impress their fellow competitors. Finally, Jayne Little and David Haynes round off the competition by bringing their rivals to the eco-friendly Blackburn Lodge on the Scottish Borders, and the B&B owners convene one last time to reveal which of their venues has been considered to be the most impressive.

8.00 **The Love of Cars.** Philip Glenister fulfils a dream to drive some of Britain's most iconic police cars, as he and Ant Anstead take a tour over 3MI and push a 1959 Daimler Dart to the limit.

9.00 **Film: The Impossible.** (2012)
Premiere. A British family spends Christmas in Thailand, only to get caught up in the 2004 tsunami. While his mother lies injured in hospital, the eldest son and daughter endure the ensuing chaos to search for his father and younger brothers, whom he was separated from during the crisis. Drama, with Naomi Watts.

11.15 **Film: Outpost.** (2009) A US marshal stationed in Antarctica investigates a murder, uncovering the dark secret behind a plane crash 50 years earlier. Thriller, starring Kate Beckinsale.

1.05 Film: Kal Salwaar. (2009) **3.05** Kirsten Bell. Genre: Comedy. **5.05** Dine with Me. (R) **5.30** Jamie's Money Saving Meals. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00s **Minikashke!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Bananas** in Pajamas. (R) **6.15** **Milkshake Boy** (R). **6.20** **Angelina Ballerina**. (R) **6.35** **Pup Aboi**. (R) **6.45** **The Mr Men Show**. (R) **6.50** **Mr Men**. (R) **7.10** **Milkshake! Monkey**. (R) **7.15** **Roobarb and Custard Too**. (R) **7.20** **Mae Way for Noddy**. (R) **7.35** **Paw Patrol**. (R) **7.45** **Little Princess**. (R) **8.00** **Wanda and the Alien**. (R) **8.10** **Mr Mao**. (R) **8.15** **Jack and the Beanstalk**. (R) **8.20** **Little Kingdom**. (R) **8.40** **Milkshake! Show**. (R) **8.45** **Jelly Jam**. (R) **9.00** **LazyTown**. (R) **9.30** **Dora and Friends**. (R) **10.00** **The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**. (R) **10.35** **Chinese Food in Minutes**. (R) **10.50** **The Inspector**. (R) **11.50** **The Hotel Inspector**. (R) **12.50** **The Hotel Inspector**. (R) **1.50** **Film: James and the Giant Peach**. (1996) Children's fantasy, with Paul Terry. **3.20** **Film: Sabrina the Teenage Witch**. (1996) Supernatural comedy. **5.00** **News**. **5.10** **News**. **5.15** **Film: Labyrinth**. (1986) Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie. **7.15** **Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls**. (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of self-imposed exile in a monastery to visit Africa and help search for a sacred white bat. However, his unique investigative talents are tested to the limits as he faces a race against time to find the creature's creator and prevent a tribal war. **Comedy** sequel, starring Jim Carrey, Simon Callery and Bob Gunton. Edited for language and sexual content. **9.00** **Film: The Last Stand**. (2013) Action. **Disorder** in a small town as cop Ray Owens retires into a quiet life as sheriff of a small town on the Mexican border. He gets the chance to prove his worth as a law enforcer when a drug lord escapes to the town and he has to rescue the country with his escape route taking him through Ray's jurisdiction. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Johnny Knoxville and Forest Whitaker. **11.30** **Film: Navy Seals**. (1990) The US Navy's elite commandos embark on a covert mission to recover stolen missiles from terrorists in Beirut. Action adventure, starring Charlie Sheen and Michael Biehn. **1.45** **SuperCasino 3.10**. (R) **The Gadget Show**. (R) **2.00** **House Doctor**. (R) **4.25** **Mae Roag**. (R) **5.15** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.40** **Biggie the Racing Car**. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear (2008) **9.00 Film:** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) **10.00** Tata! **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.55** Family Guy **12.15** Tata! **12.55** The Killer Movie **1.25** The Cannabis Smugglers: Stacey Doody Investigates **2.25** Vodka Diaries **2.50** Tata! **3.30** Killer Movie **4.00** Close

BBC Four
10.10 10 Things You Didn't Know About Avanchicles **8.00** Antipode **9.30 Film:** *Avanchicles* (2012) **10.10** The Tour Bus: Road to 125 on the Road 12.15 The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold **14.55** BBC Young Dancer 2012 **4.55** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Avanchicles **3.45** Close

ITV2
12.10 Take Me Out **1.20** Scorpion **2.15** Film: Homebound: The Incredible Story of a British Soap (2012) **3.55** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **5.45** Britain's Got Talent? **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! A to Z of Growing Up **9.00** Film: Rush Hour (1998) **11.00 Film:** The Secret of the Supernanny (2012) **11.40** Mom **1.55** Life's Funniest Moments **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **8.00**

ITV3
11.10 A Touch of Frost **1.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.30 Film:** The Secret of My Success (1987) **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** When Kate Met William: A Tale of the Supremacy (2012) **11.40** Mon Heir We Go Again **10.00 Film:** Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **12.25 Film:** The Elephant Man (1980) **2.30** Judge Judy **3.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
1.40 100 Counting Cars **12.25** Pawn Stars **2.40** Film: Smoker and the Bandit **7.10** (2008) **4.45 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **11** Paula Radcliffe: Sports Life Stories **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** The Interpreter (2005) **11.35 Film:** The Killer Inside Me (2010) **11.45** Whisker Wars **2.35** Nitro Circus **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Revenge. **2.00** Jane the Virgin **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Goldberrys **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **10.20** Virtually Famous (2011) **11.00** The Chav Show **11.20** 1.20 The 100 **2.20** Broke Girls **2.50** Rules of Engagement

Film4
1.00 Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **3.05** True Grit (1969) **5.45** The Cunnuse Case of Benvenuto Cellini (2008) **8.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** The Paperboy (2012) **1.15** A Mighty Heart (2007) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Unforgiven, Channel 5, 11pm
Two notorious gunslingers come out of retirement to help a young assassin collect the \$1,000 bounty on the heads of a pair of cowboys who attacked and mutilated a prostitute in the backwoods town of Big Whiskey. The local sheriff, however, has no intention of letting the pair impinge on his own authority. Oscar-winning Western, starring Clint Eastwood. (1992)

TUESDAY
Ghost Town, BBC1, 11.50pm
A bad-tempered dentist has a near-death experience and finds himself able to see ghosts. He is irritated to find all the spirits want him to sort out their unresolved problems from when they were alive, particularly a man who wants the grouchy dentist to stop his widow from remarrying. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais, Greg Kinnear and Tea Leoni. (2008)

WEDNESDAY
Jindabyne, BBC1, 11.30pm
Four men on a fishing trip discover the body of a murdered Aboriginal girl, but decide not to contact the police until after returning home days later. However, when the news breaks in their small town, they are ostracised by the community, and one of their wives becomes obsessed with making amends. Drama, starring Gabriel Byrne and Laura Linney. (2006)



THURSDAY
Carry On Again Doctor, ITV, 11.50pm
A disgraced surgeon sets up a clinic in the hope of promoting a supposedly miraculous slimming potion made from secret ingredients discovered on a remote tropical island. Comedy, starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Jim Dale and Joan Sims. (1969)

FRIDAY
Senna, ITV, 10.40pm
Documentary about the life of Brazilian Formula One driver Ayrton Senna, examining his achievements on the track over a 10-year period that saw him crowned world champion three times, until his death in a crash during the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix. (2010)

Peter's on the road to a journey of self-discovery

Peter Kay is back! For many years, he was regarded as Britain's premier comedian, the heir to the northern comedy crown once worn by the likes of Morecambe and Wise and Les Dawson.

He started his showbusiness career in stand-up after enrolling on a media performance course at Salford University. Then, in 1996, after appearing at various local clubs, he was encouraged to enter the North-west Comedian of the Year contest, which he won. A year later, he also triumphed at Edinburgh's So You Think You're Funny competition.

Despite missing out on the Perrier Award in 1998, Kay's star was rising and by 2000, he was appearing regularly on TV.

The mockumentary The Services went down a storm and led to That Peter Kay Thing, which was followed by the mighty Phoenix Nights. For many, that remains the peak of his career to date, and was recently revived via a charity stage version which featured much of the original cast.

Like many comics, Kay is a keen people-watcher, and uses quirky moments he's observed in his work; it's something he started back when he was working in dead-end jobs before fame called.

"When I was working, I would write down lots of things that were funny – things managers would say and phrases they'd use that stood out, and stories about what happened," he reveals.

Perhaps that's where the germ of the idea that grew into his latest project, Car Share, came from. It's similar in tone to the aforementioned That Peter Kay Thing, with a soupcon of Phoenix Nights thrown in for good measure – basically, it's a sitcom based around characters thrown together by their jobs.

BBC iPlayer users had the opportunity of watching Car Share early when it appeared on the catch-up service last week. But there's something more special about seeing it on TV – anything new featuring Kay feels like an event worth sitting down with friends or family to view.

Kay himself stars as John, a supermarket worker who begins commuting with colleague Kayleigh (Sian Gibson) thanks to a company car-share initiative.

"To be finally working with the BBC on a new comedy is a great opportunity," says Kay, whose previous work has been broadcast by Channel 4. "And the idea of two people car sharing to work each day really appealed to me, as it highlights the comedy in the minutiae of the daily trek and allows the spiralling conversations of life to unwind in all of their glory."

Each of John and Kayleigh's six journeys reveal something different about their private lives – but will they get along?

A sat-nav disaster means the first trip doesn't get off to a good start, and to make matters worse, Kayleigh makes her mark as soon as she gets into John's car – what could have been a beautiful friendship may have been ruined before it's had a chance to get off the ground.



Peter Kay's Car Share, Wednesday, BBC1, 9.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Gadget Show, Channel 5, 7pm
Jason Bradbury and Amy Williams head to Shakespeare's home town of Stratford-upon-Avon, but they're not on the trail of a Bard-related gadget. Instead, they're putting some of the craziest new vehicles through the paces, including off-road trainers and horse racing simulators – but which will come out on top? Meanwhile, Jon Bentley is in calmer mode as he compares the merits of an entry-level DSLR with the latest mirrorless camera by taking snaps at a classic car event. Former world superbike champ Carl Fogarty tries out the latest in motorbike technology, while Ortis Deley travels to another far-flung destination, where he pushes VideoRay, an underwater remotely operated vehicle, to its limits.

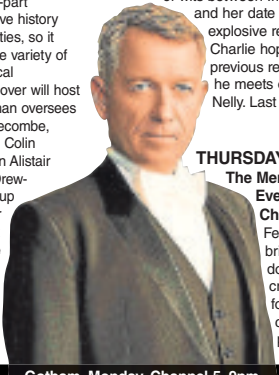
Gotham, Channel 5, 9pm
Gordon investigates Loeb's past after the sudden release of Arnold Flass, and has to ask Cobblepot for a favour to find out more about the suspicious death of the commissioner's wife. Meanwhile, Alfred recovers from the attack in hospital, but is evasive when questioned by detectives about the identity of his assailant, while Fish Mooney earns a promotion after impressing the founder of the institution where

she is being held. Crime thriller, starring Ben McKenzie, Jada Pinkett Smith and Sean Pertwee.

TUESDAY
24 Hours in the Past, BBC1, 9pm
The Beeb has described this new, four-part programme as a "dirty, smelly, immersive history series." What's more, it features celebrities, so it should attract viewers who enjoy a wide variety of genres, including reality shows, historical documentaries and social drama. FI Glover will host the series, while historian Ruth Goodman oversees the proceedings. Ex-political Ann Widdecombe, presenter Miquita Oliver, retired athlete Colin Jackson, actress Zoe Lucker, comedian Alistair McGowan and Outnumbered's Tyger Drew-Honey are the famous faces who give up all mod cons to spend four days in four different environments, learning what it was like to be working class during the Victorian period.

WEDNESDAY
First Dates, Channel 4, 10pm
Former model Joe knows exactly how to charm, but he

finds himself working for the affections of personal shopper Nicole. Devout Christian Tawanda gets to know Marvin, a Trevor Nelson doppelganger, while Essex girl Sian is on the hunt for her dream man – and Londoner Tom ticks all the right boxes. There's a linguistic battle of wits between Irish fashionista Laura and her date Frankie, with explosive results, and confident Charlie hopes to right his previous relationship wrongs as he meets one-time ballet dancer Nelly. Last in the series.



THURSDAY
The Mentalist: The Last Ever Episode, Channel 5, 10pm
Feature-length episode bringing the curtain down on the American crime drama. The hunt for the serial killer continues and when a public appeal for witnesses yields no

results, Jane reluctantly agrees to masquerade as a renowned psychic and be used as bait in an attempt to lure out the murderer. As he is leaving a studio after an appearance on a TV news programme, Jane's car is rammed and he is knocked unconscious – waking up to find himself shackled to a table. Simon Baker and Robin Tunney star. Last in the series.

FRIDAY
The Clare Balding Show, BBC2, 10pm
The weekend alarm goes off and Clare Balding is hosting her Radio 2 show. You pop The One Show on later in the week and she's promoting this series. Yes, when it comes to ubiquity, Clare is more omnipresent than Ant and Dec combined it seems. But can she break the curse that befell Gabby Roslin and Davina McCall in the past: sustaining a prime time female-hosted chat show? Well, it may take at least one series to iron out the wrinkles. Talking of which, this week she's joined by a man who loves nothing more than such crease-reducing shenanigans: Chris Eubank. The former world champion boxer and his son Chris Jr, currently the WBA interim world middleweight title-holder, discuss their professional and personal lives. Top tips on ironing welcome, Chris.



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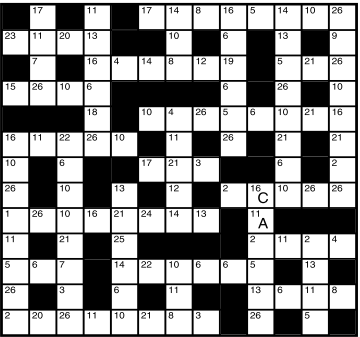
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

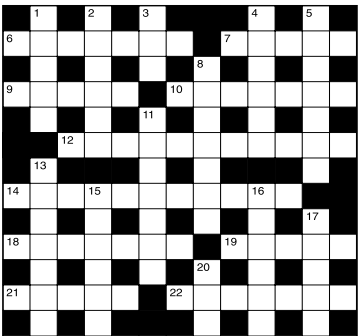
R	E	B	J	H	I	G	F	Y	Z	C	U	K
V	S	X	A	W	L	T	O	N	Q	P	M	D

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

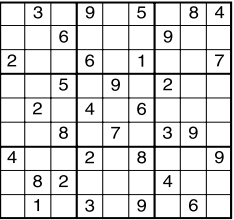
- Across**
- 6. Odd sort of brazier (7)
 - 7. Figures that have to be filled (5)
 - 9. Highest tree by the way (5)
 - 10. Taxi I catch under the Prime Minister's direction (7)
 - 12. How troops may advance knowledge? (11)
 - 14. Very good quality, this! (11)
 - 18. Note recorded as beaten (7)
 - 19. A fibre preparation, not long-lasting (5)
 - 21. Leaves with all debts settled (5)
 - 22. One youngster was bold enough to sling him out! (7)
- Down**
- 1. Stiff attire I'd put on (5)
 - 2. Hand over and die (4,2)
 - 3. Merry-hearted lapse from virtue (3)
 - 4. Vote is for Russian government (6)
 - 5. Ruler in a temper, or so it seems (7)
 - 8. Object in torn clothing (7)
 - 11. They have loads of energy (7)
 - 13. Not to agree to a full distribution (4,3)
 - 15. Things look different after dark (6)
 - 16. Sally from the Tories (6)
 - 17. Mouth a letter (5)
 - 20. Weed-killer (3)



Quick Clues:

- Across**
- 6. Relate (7)
 - 7. Cite (5)
 - 9. Speed (5)
 - 10. Attendants (7)
 - 12. Deception (11)
 - 14. Coiffeur (11)
 - 18. Go on (7)
 - 19. Droll (5)
 - 21. Disdain (5)
 - 22. Laden (7)
- Down**
- 1. Postpone (5)
 - 2. Placard (6)
 - 3. Writing fluid (3)
 - 4. Vain (6)
 - 5. Constant (7)
 - 8. Ask (7)
 - 11. Dispute (7)
 - 13. Whim (7)
 - 15. Register (6)
 - 16. Departure (6)
 - 17. Correct (5)
 - 20. Skill (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	6	5	1	4	8	3	9	2
2	3	9	7	5	6	4	1	8
1	8	4	2	3	9	5	6	7
9	1	7	8	2	3	6	5	4
6	5	2	9	1	4	8	7	3
8	4	3	6	7	5	2	1	9
4	9	6	3	8	1	7	2	5
3	7	1	5	6	2	9	4	8
5	2	8	4	9	7	1	3	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Husbandman; 7 Rover; 8 Leisure; 10 Well night; 11 Edit; 13 Backer; 15 Reaver; 17 Ainy; 18 Circular; 21 Knights; 22 Andes; 23 Bluebottle. Down: 1 Hovel; 2 Sprinter; 3 Allege; 4 Dais; 5 Asunder; 6 Draw a blank; 9 Enterprise; 12 Penchant; 14 Cordial; 16 Flasco; 19 Ledge; 20 Shoe. QUICK - Across: 1 Profession; 7 Noted; 8 Pointed; 10 Inherent; 11 Boss; 13 Hearty; 15 Horror; 17 Safe; 18 Increase; 21 Sublime; 22 Wince; 23 Repeatedly. Down: 1 Pitch; 2 Obdurate; 3 Expand; 4 Slim; 5 Outdoor; 6 Antithesis; 9 Disordered; 12 Borrowed; 14 Aftable; 16 Intent; 19 Annoy; 20 File.

Quiz

- 1. By what name, meaning 'our thing', is the mafia known in the US?
- 2. Which poet is buried in a country churchyard in Stoke Poges?
- 3. Whose operas are performed annually at Bayreuth?
- 4. Which US state has Dover as its capital?
- 5. Which prime minister became Earl of Stockton?
- 6. Who was the first Roman emperor?
- 7. In which century did the Peasants' Revolt take place?
- 8. During which Crimean War Battle did the Charge of the Light Brigade take place?
- 9. In which novel did Sherlock Holmes first appear?
- 10. What is the lowest-pitched member of the violin family?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Tequila; 2 Waterloo; 3 Gold; 4 Neville Chamberlain; 5 Wars of the Roses; 6 St Nicholas; 7 Johannesburg; 8 George Eliot; 9 Caracas; 10 Sitting Bull.

Niner: DAVENPORT

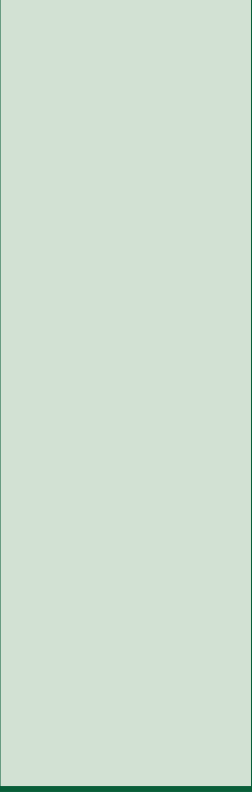
Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

82354 gives an animal,
96743 gives another animal,
143349 gives a third animal.



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With central heating and double glazing it has a porch, entrance hall with stairs off, a living room with a fire, kitchen with a cooker hood and pantry, side room, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes) and a bathroom with a white suite. There is a garden.

Contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net website.



Extended semi-detached has landscaped gardens



TASTEFULLY presented, this three-bed semi-detached house in Norton Road, Stourbridge has been extended and has extensive landscaped gardens.

Directly opposite Mary Stevens Park, it is for sale through Scriven & Co at £295,000.

It has a porch, reception hall with herringbone pattern block flooring, WC, lounge with a feature fireplace, an extended living room with dining and sitting areas and French doors, kitchen with gas hob, extractor, oven/grill, tall storage unit housing fridge and freezer, washing machine, dishwasher, breakfast bar.

There are three bedrooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact Scriven & Co Estate Agents on 0121 4224011 or visit www.scriven.co.uk



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BIRMINGHAM, Orion Building£800 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a fully furnished apartment in the heart of Birmingham City Centre. This 1 bed modern property overlooking the Mailbox features open plan living with 24 hour concierge service and secure underground parking (permit required), double glazed and electric heating. Viewings highly recommended. EPC: C



KIDDERMINSTER, Grosvenor Avenue£795 pcm+Fees
Shining 3 storey town house in a quiet cul-de-sac position within walking distance of Kidderminster train station. Completely refurbished to a very high standard. Front reception room, lounge with feature fireplace with wood-burner, modern fitted kitchen with appliances. 3 large double bedrooms, beautiful bathroom with separate shower cubicle and a roll edged glazed foot free standing bath. Not to be missed. EPC: E



NEW
QUARRY BANK, Dunns Bank£750 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a fully renovated property in a quiet oasis. An open plan kitchen/dining & family room looks into a lovely sun room with views into the private garden. Featuring a new luxury bathroom with separate shower, bay fronted formal lounge and new windows, electric, gas central heating system and carpets throughout. This is a superb family home which offers a special long term rental. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Shenstone Valley Road£695 pcm+Fees
A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached on a popular estate. This property features, living room and large second reception room, modern fitted kitchen, large bathroom with separate corner shower, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single. Also consisting of driveway, double glazed and gas central heated. Ideal for Leasows High School. EPC: F



NEW
BRIERLEY HILL, Amblecote Road£695 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished to a very high standard is this traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached house, comprising of: entrance hall, large living room/dining area, fitted kitchen, large rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, white bathroom suite with shower. Available Now. EPC: TBC



NEW
OLDBURY, Mehdi Road £625 pcm+Fees
Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, this is modern unfurnished 3 storey townhouse, comprising of: 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, large lounge, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs wc, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, small rear garden. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
STOURBRIDGE, Stourbridge Road£575 pcm+Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfurnished 3 bedroom mid terraced property with off road parking to the rear, close to local amenities and main bus routes. The property is well presented and comprises of: entrance porch, hallway, lounge with feature fireplace, modern kitchen with appliances, 3 good size bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, private rear garden. Available Now. EPC: D



NEW
WORDSLEY, John Street £575 pcm+Fees
A stunning 3 bedroom terrace property featuring a new upstairs bathroom and a new kitchen with patio doors leading into the garden. Two reception rooms and new windows and carpets throughout complete the property. This is a superb family home which offers a long term rental. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Stour Close £550 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and in a quiet location. This fantastic top floor apartment in a well sought after location, features 2 double bedrooms, modern kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, left access, gas heating, double glazing, allocated parking, communal gardens and garage. Well worth a viewing! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Fatherless Barn Crescent£550 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished 3 bedroom semi detached family home within the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School and the number 9 bus. Featuring an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen & utility, 3 good size bedrooms & upstairs walk in shower room. Large rear garden & driveway. Available Now. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£535 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished mid terrace house, within walking distance to Blackheath Town Centre and not far from Rowley Regis train station, briefly comprising of: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, 2 double bedrooms. Benefits include rear garden, off road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hawne Court£525 pcm+Fees
Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D



NEW
BRIERLEY HILL, Talbot Street£495 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished end terrace house close to Brierley Hill town centre. This lovely property has new fitted kitchen with oven/hob, rear lounge, long rear garden. 2 bedrooms, white bathroom with shower, newly fitted central heating with new boiler. Available now. EPC: TBC



KIDDERMINSTER, Keats Place£485 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom ground floor flat, having accommodation including: hall, lounge, refitted kitchen with appliances, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing and cul de sac location. Virgin Broadband connection is available. Own entrance to the property. EPC: G



BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street£475 pcm+Fees
Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern end mews house features: 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars. EPC: C. LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE GUARANTOR



HALESOWEN, Albany Court£475 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat in a sought after location. Featuring 2 large double bedrooms, large living room, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower. Other benefits include electric storage heating, communal gardens, parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£450 pcm+Fees
Situated within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham City Centre. This well presented 1 double bedroom apartment features a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, house bathroom with shower, cosy lounge, double glazing, gas central heating and 1 allocated parking space. EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, Hanover Road£450 pcm+Fees
A well presented modern 1st floor apartment offering open plan living. Featuring a fitted kitchen with breakfast bar and appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric heating. New carpets throughout, communal gardens, allocated parking to rear, electric heating & double glazing. Available now. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Belgrave Road£425 pcm+Fees
A large ground floor modern apartment within walking distance to Blackheath Town Centre and local buses. Featuring a spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, newly fitted bathroom suite with shower. (Gas central heating, small rear garden with private entrance. Available Now. EPC: TBC



KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road£395 pcm+Fees
A fully re-furnished 1st floor flat comprising of: lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, stairs leading to a 1 double bedroom, white bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC



LYE, High Street £375 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern and contemporary kitchen/ diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: E

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- * Two reception rooms
- * Three bedrooms
- EPC=F

Offers in the region of £99,950**Quinton****Max Road**

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- * Living room and dining room
- * Re-fitted kitchen
- * Three bedrooms
- * Re-fitted bathroom
- EPC=F

Offers in the region of £169,950**Oldbury****Martley Road**

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- * Three bedrooms
- * Bathroom
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £102,950**Oldbury****Florence Road**

- * Semi-detached house
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- * Through living room
- * Dining room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Shower room EPC=F

Offers in the region of £119,950**Oldbury****Broadway Court Pottery Road**

- * Second floor flat
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- * Bedroom
- * Bathroom
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £94,950**Oldbury****Apsley Road**

- * Semi detached house in need of general modernisation
- * Living room and dining room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Garage
- * Good sized rear garden
- EPC=E

Offers in the region of £149,950**Cradley Heath****Trejon Road**

- * Traditional style semi-detached House
- * Kitchen/dining room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Extensive rear garden
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £149,950**Halesowen****Glead's Croft**

- * Link detached house
- * Impressive reception hall and kitchen
- * Through living room * Conservatory
- * Bedroom one with en-suite shower room
- * Three further bedrooms
- * Garage and extensive driveway parking
- EPC=D

£249,999**Oldbury****Pound Road**

- * Semi detached house
- * Recently re-planned and modernised
- * Two reception rooms
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Kitchen with breakfast area
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £189,950**Cradley Heath****Timbertree Crescent**

- * Semi Detached House
- * In need of modernisation and improvement
- * Through Living Room
- * Kitchen
- * Two Bedrooms
- * Shower Room
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £89,950**Oldbury****Swan Crescent**

- * Semi-detached house
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- * Three bedrooms
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Offers in the region of £139,950**Rowley Regis****Oldbury Road**

- * Semi detached house
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Two Reception rooms
- * In need of general modernisation and improvement
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £99,950**Halesowen****Narrow Lane**

- * Detached house
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- * Study* Downstairs wc and utility
- * Five bedrooms one with en-suite
- * Bathroom
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Offers in the region of £304,950**Oldbury Tividale****Gibbet Hill**

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- * Impressive reception hall and kitchen
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- * Fitted cloakroom
- * Four bedrooms
- * En suite shower room
- * Utility
- * Double garage EPC =C

Offers in the region of £325,000**Rowley Regis****Glaslyn Avenue**

- * Ground Floor Flat
- * Open plan Kitchen/Dining/Living area
- * Two bedrooms
- * Bathroom and en-suite shower room
- * Garage
- EPC =C

Offers in the region of £119,950**Halesowen****Stourbridge Road**

- * Detached bungalow
- * Good sized garage
- * Three bedrooms (master with en-suite)
- * Breakfast kitchen
- * Conservatory
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £299,950**Halesowen****Welbeck Close**

- * Detached house * Re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room * Study and utility
- * Two reception rooms
- * Four bedrooms one with en-suite
- * House bathroom
- * Double garage EPC=D

Offers in the region of £399,950**Halesowen****Links View**

- * Detached house
- * Fitted cloakroom and utility
- * Double garage
- * Four bedrooms
- * En-suite shower room
- * House bathroom EPC=C

Offers in the region of £309,950**Halesowen****Priory Road**

- * Detached house * Two reception rooms
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Three good sized bedrooms
- * Integral garage
- * Rear tandem garage with driveway off Cavendish Road EPC=E

Offers in the region of £375,000**Halesowen****Chantry Drive**

- * Detached bungalow in sought after cul-de-sac location
- * Dining room and living room
- * Bedroom one with en-suite shower room
- * Two further bedrooms
- * Bathroom
- * Garage EPC=D

Offers in the region of £325,000**Halesowen****Hayley Park Road**

- * Detached House
- * Two Reception Rooms
- * Breakfast Room
- * Kitchen
- * Conservatory
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Shower Room * Garage EPC=E

Offers in the region of £309,950**Halesowen Lapal****Stennels Avenue**

- * Extended Traditional Detached
- * Four Bedrooms * Two En-suite Shower Rooms * House Bathroom
- * Three reception rooms * Kitchen and utility room
- * Extensive gardens
- * Downstairs WC *Garage EPC=E

Offers in the region of £398,000

Slicker Vitara will challenge

Commercial feature

It's good to see the Vitara badge being rehabilitated after the indignities it suffered at the hands of fashion in the early nineties. You'll probably shudder as you recall those widewheelarched horrors, usually so mercilessly colour-keyed in white that it looked as if they'd emerged from a peroxide bath.

The windsurfing or rollerblading rhino on the spare wheel cover and the booming stereo from within were all rather 'of their time'. The easy thing to have done after suffering these ministrations would have been to quietly drop the Vitara name and think up a new badge for their next generation of compact crossovers but Suzuki stuck with it, probably to their cost, in this country at least. As the market grew more sophisticated, Suzuki was left behind.

The thing is, the Grand Vitara's it subsequently built were actually pretty good. Sure, they were short of a bit of polish, but they were tough, reliable and practical. Then came the Nissan Qashqai. It hogged that particular section of the market and the Grand Vitara was doomed. Suzuki's back in the crossover segment with a smaller and slicker offering. The Vitara is back.

The mechanicals aren't anything too surprising, shared as they are with the existing SX-4 S-Cross. That means buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a much preferable Fiat-sourced 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in

front or four-wheel drive guises. The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard with an optional CVT transmission also offered. Go diesel and you get a six-speed manual 'box. The short overhangs will help with off-roading but the 185mm ground clearance isn't generous.

The ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, controlled by a four-position switch on the centre console. Choose 'Auto' and it'll drive the front wheels unless slip is detected, whereupon the rear wheels are pressed into action. 'Sport' diverts up to 20 per cent of torque to the rear wheels to give livelier handling. 'Snow' offers permanent four-wheel drive with the system choosing how much torque to split front and rear, while 'Lock' splits torque equally between front and rear.

With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design, the Vitara is an assured piece of design. There's also a blacked-out floating glasshouse, heavily sculpted flanks and a very neat taillamp finish.

Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up a bit. Okay, so the idea of body-coloured metal across the dash isn't a new one (many of you will recall the Fiat Coupe mining that trend way back in '93) but Suzuki also offers chrome around the gearlever and door trims, plus an analogue clock. It's by no means a large vehicle, breaking the tape at just over four metres long, but still features a features a 375-litre boot.

Prices start at around £14,000 for the entry-level 1.6-litre petrol, but you'll need



'Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up a bit.'

a £20,000 budget for the petrol ALLGRIP 4WD version. 1.6 DDiS diesel model pricing starts at around £17,000. All variants get seven airbags, 16-inch alloy wheels, a DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control with a speed limiter, auto air conditioning, front and rear electric windows and projector headlamps.

The Vitara's CO2 emissions are low thanks to the use of high tensile steel and other weight saving measures in the body plus an Engine Auto Stop Start system which shuts down the engine when stationary.

The CO2 emissions for the petrol engine with two wheel drive/manual transmission are 123g/km and 127g/km for the petrol engine with two-wheel drive / six-speed automatic transmission. Four-wheel drive is typically seen as detrimental to fuel economy and emissions performance. By contrast, Suzuki's ALLGRIP system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a four-wheel drive SUV, with figures of 130g/km with five-speed manual transmission and 131g/km with six-speed automatic transmission.



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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Vitara range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 42.1-61.4 (6.7-4.6), Extra Urban 55.4-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 49.5-70.6 (5.7-4.0), CO₂ emissions 131-106 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. Vitara range: Vitara SZ4 1.6 Petrol Manual available at £13,999 to Vitara SZ5 DDiS ALLGRIP Manual with Urban or Rugged Pack available at £21,799. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. *Model shown is a Vitara SZ5 1.6 petrol available at £17,999 on the road (Single-tone metallic paint available at an additional cost of £430, Dual-tone paint available at an additional cost of £800). †Optional extra for SZ5 models only, optional ALLGRIP 4-wheel Drive available at additional cost.





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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 – 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 – 3.3), Combined 32.5 – 78.5 (8.7 – 3.6). CO₂ emissions 201 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models shown for illustrative purposes only. **Terms and Conditions:** 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0.0% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **5 Years Servicing Option is available for £500 and includes:** all scheduled servicing as detailed in the vehicle service book for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Servicing Option of £500 is inclusive of VAT (usual value £1,430 including VAT, resulting in a £930 saving) is only available on vehicles purchased through Honda Aspirations. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the cover remains with the vehicle. Offer available between the 1 April 2015 and 30 April 2015 inclusive on participating models between 90 and 180 days old, with a starting mileage of 50 miles or less.

Audi upping the styling game with TT roadster

By Graham Breeze

Friends ribbed me that the Audi TT Roadster I was driving was a hairdresser's car but the third generation model that's just arrived on our roads is certainly not just for the girls.

The new TT is evolutionary, rather than revolutionary – after all why fix something that isn't broken. But Audi has upped the game in styling and technology and is taking the fight to rivals in the sector.

The TT Roadster looks broadly the same but there's a sharper focus on sports positioning and better dynamics thanks to its lightweight aluminium and steel construction. The TT of today is a more sharply designed package, with a slightly longer wheelbase with definite hints of the more expensive R8.

Sitting on 19in wheels the S-Line gets deeper side sills, different bumpers and a black grille.

There are just two trims, Sport and S-Line, and a choice of highly efficient engines.

The petrol TT uses a 230bhp, 2.0-litre TFSi unit with either a six-speed manual gearbox or Audi's seven-speed, dual-clutch S tronic transmission, and there's the choice of front- or Quattro four-wheel drive.

You can also get a TDI Ultra version with an 184bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine which gives 67.3mpg and emit just 110g/km of CO₂ with manual and front-wheel drive.

I prefer the 2.0litre TFSi S tronic which was on test. It came with an on-the-road tag of £33,020 but on-board extras pushed that up to £40,255.

Extras include leather trim, auto dimming and rear-view mirror sensor package, heated seats and a parking system.

Performance

There was a top speed of 155mph and 0-62mph in only 6.1 seconds, yet the manufacturers claim 38.6mpg on the combined cycle and 11 per cent lower CO₂ figures of 142g/km.

That really is competitive.

And while there's the performance you would expect there's lots more inside the cabin to make the TT stand out from the opposition, particularly if you want to upgrade to get Audi's stunning virtual cockpit system.

Centre of attention is the 12in LCD driver display which has replaced conventional dials and sits beautifully in front of the driver where all information is readily available.

This development is a real sales winner for Audi and just has to be seen to be believed. It can be switched between Classic View or Infotainment View which brings up the biggest navigation map you will ever see.

Telephone, media, trip and car settings functions all appear on the screen and can be controlled using both the touch sensitive MMI controller or the multi-function wheel – a sheer joy.

The test car was fitted with the optional Technology Package which added Google Maps traffic information, music streaming and internet access.

On the road stability control intervention contributes to great roadholding and if you chose to upgrade to the AUD Quattro there's even more agility.

Audi's Drive Select system is standard across the range, allowing you to choose Normal, Sport or Dynamic driving modes.

Audi may say that the TT is a 2+2 but it's really a two-seater. The benefits come when you lower the rear seats to increase boot space.

There's also a shortage of storage space in the cabin so you'll need to travel lightly.

Visibility is normally a problem in this sector but the TT scores well in this area.

All models in the new range are considerably dearer, but Audi has a reputation for holding residual values, so price shouldn't be an issue.

Vauxhall's underdog is a sound performer

By James Parker

Vauxhall's latest version of the Corsa VXR packs a 205PS punch, a six-speed manual gearbox to delight purists and the option of a Performance Pack with a Drexler differential, Brembo brakes and bigger wheels. Some trick Koni dampers are fitted as standard. Economy and emissions lag behind the class best but otherwise it's a strong showing.

Here in the UK, we do love an underdog and on that basis, we ought to be all over the Vauxhall Corsa VXR.

It's never been one of the blue-blood hot hatches. It doesn't have the lineage of a Peugeot 208 GTI, the joie de vivre of a Fiesta ST or the track-bred polish of a Renaultsport Clio. What many people failed to realise about the last Corsa VXR is that as a pure road car, it had the licking of a number of more illustrious names. The combination of a slightly more supple ride quality and an aggressively punchy engine really made sense on British roads. Vauxhall built us a car and we didn't really repay them.

Undeterred, they're back with another crack. This time round, the Corsa VXR rides on a different chassis and looks a good deal sharper. Can it beat the best in the class? Even if it does, will you take notice? You're a tough crowd.

Power comes from an entirely predictable source, namely a 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol engine, in this case sending 205PS through the front tyres via a six-speed manual box. That aces the Fiesta ST's 182PS but look a bit more closely and you realise that the performance margin isn't huge.

The Corsa manages 245Nm of torque, with overboost lifting that to 280Nm for a few seconds at a time. By contrast the Ford makes 240Nm of torque, overboosting to 290Nm. And so it proves with the raw numbers, the Corsa getting to 62mph in 6.8 seconds with a top speed of 143mph, while the Fiesta manages 6.9 seconds and 137mph. So, a small edge to the Vauxhall then.

Lower

The Corsa VXR gets Koni dampers with Frequency Selective Damping (FSD) and rides 10mm lower than the standard Corsa. For the first time on a hot Corsa, the ESP and traction control systems are both two-stage and switchable, which is a Vauxhall first. Competition mode disengages traction control and reduces ESP interventions, while for track use the ESP can be entirely switched out.

The electrically-assisted power steering has been revised for a more direct feel, with the 17in alloys shod with some beefy 215/45 R17 Michelin rubber. Tick the Performance Package option and you get an aggressive Drexler limited-slip differential, big 330mm Brembo brake discs at the front, punchier damper settings and 18in rims.

The VXR features an aggressive new front-end design that has divided opinion amongst those who first saw it on the Geneva Show stand. It gets large air intakes and an aluminium-framed opening below the headlights with a scoop below the bonnet and side-sill extensions. At the back, a rear spoiler reduces lift and twin Remus exhaust pipes further distinguish it from regular Corsas. Six exterior paint finishes, including an exclusive Flash Blue launch colour, are on offer.

The cabin features the usual sporty styling touches for the pedals, seats, steering wheel and gear lever but what really impresses is the feeling of solidity. A driver control centre takes pride of place within the instrument panel, which is themed around horizontal lines. The VXR also gets the IntelliLink communications system which has already been seen in the ADAM.

Recaro

This Corsa VXR has been priced against £20,000 super-mini-based hot hatches like the Clio Renaultsport 200 Lux, the Peugeot 208 GTI and a top-spec version of Ford's Fiesta ST. For that kind of money, Vauxhall gives you standard Recaro shell-backed seats, a leather, flat-bottomed steering wheel, sports pedals, plus a VXR gear-lever and bespoke instruments.

A heated front windscreen and IntelliLink connectivity for both Apple iOS and Android smartphones are also standard. There's also cruise control, a trip computer and bi-xenon headlights. Safety systems include six airbags and stability control, but should you want to go further, you can option in side blindspot alert, high beam assist, lane departure warning and a rear-view camera. You can even specify a panoramic glass roof.

The 17in wheels that come as standard are a bit of a dull outing, but the 18in option rims look the business.

The Corsa VXR makes some fairly unexceptional economy and emissions numbers. Vauxhall reckon it will manage a combined 37.7mpg and emit 174g/km, which is some way off the 44.8mpg and 144g/km of a Clio 200 – and a long way shy of the top Fiesta ST's 47.9mpg and 138g/km. It's a bit baffling as to why this should be so below par.



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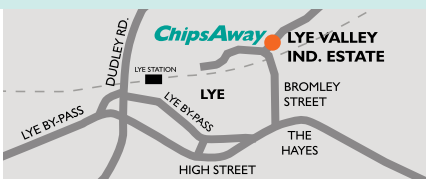


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Parade of MGs is a record

Lancaster Insurance is now an official Guinness World Records title holder for the 'Largest parade of MGs'.

The parade took place at Rockingham Circuit in Corby, Northamptonshire, where 144 MG owners and lovers united to take part in a world first.

The parade took 'pole position' on the Oval Track, the UK's only banked oval and Europe's fastest motor racing circuit, with an array of classic and

modern MGs in attendance. An official Guinness World Records adjudicator oversaw the nail-biting attempt, confirming on the day that a new record had been set.

Richard Morley, Lancaster Insurance's operations director said: "We're immensely proud to have set a brand new Guinness World Records title with the help of MG enthusiasts from all over the country!"

This would not have been possible without the support of the MG community. We are thrilled to

have created a piece of history as a group."

Sam Mason, Guinness World Record adjudicator said: "I'm delighted to be able to announce that Lancaster Insurance is now the official Guinness World Records title holder for the 'Largest parade of MGs'. A great number of participants turned up on the day and it was a terrific event to be a part of."

The tremendous occasion was then capped off with a celebratory free traditional hog roast for all participants.

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8 Motoring

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MAZDA MX5 1.8, 62k, 1999, red, rollbar, alloy wheels, good tyres, MoT March 2016, £1,800 ono. Telephone 01902 871247.

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PEUGEOT 206 ALLURE 2003, 44,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, CD, leather interior. £1,850. **07969 174759.**

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cars under £1500

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FIAT SEICENTO Michael Schuster Special, Lamborghini yellow 2000, MoT, EW, sunroof in beautiful condition. £645. ono 07908 836875

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BARGAIN

HONDA BALLARD 1.5 Auto, 1987 D reg, 4-dr saloon, 45,688 miles, met blue, MoT May 25, 2015, good runner, £2,000, 07918 603049.

MITSUBISHI SPACESTAR 1.3, petrol, 2000, 100,000 miles, 5 door, 11 months MoT, blue, Spare key. £425 ono. 07720 885174.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4, (05), silver, 5dr, long MoT, A/C, PAS, CD player £30 year Tax. Excellent condition. £1,250. o.n.o. 07429 999105.

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RENAULT CLIO 1.2, MoT 2004, 50,000 miles only, EW, CD, SR, CL, £1,295 ono. 07722 986594.

ROVER 25 5-dr hatch, 1.6, 2003, blue, MoT January, petrol, 74K, sunroof, radio/CD player, £395. 07928 679949. 01902 822939.

VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE, 69,000 miles, MoT Sept. £500 ono. 07966 295135 (after 6.30pm).

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 1999, petrol, manual, red, MoT January 2016, stereo, 3 door, well maintained, drives superb. £590.
Telephone 07985 551666.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 3dr hatch, 2002, MoT June, blue, petrol, immobiliser, C/L, excellent runner, £700 ono. 01264 4126.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 5dr, hatch, 2001, 51k, full MoT, new exhaust, tyres, battery, very good condition for year. £595. 07842 930024.

VAUXHALL VECTRA LS, 1.8 5dr, hatch, blue, 03 Reg., petrol, 90k, fish, MoT, CD radio, V6, good condition. £795. 01384 35174.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB, 1.6 petrol, 7 seater, 56 plate, 2 owners new, s/w, 6 months MoT, 103,000 miles, blue, £1,495. 01902 342564.

VOLVO V70 ESTATE, 2001, 7 seater family pack, clean car, drives well, MoT Sept 2015, Blue. £750. 07938 446750. Tettenhall.

VW POLO, 03, silver, 3 door, MoT, full service history, CD player. Great condition, cheap to run, £1,550 ono. 07535 074158.

VW POLO, 99cc, 1997, 133,000 miles, dark green, long MoT, CD, new Cat converter, Cambelt change. £500 ono. 01785 780598.

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10 Personals

personal



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general

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Making Friends



Women seeking men

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KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091 ☐

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399

SHERRIE 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417087 ☐

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989 ☐

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty curvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. Tel No: 0905 002 1953 Box No: 410291

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979 ☐

TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age for daytime, no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1913 Box No: 414701

PRETTY slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727

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DAWN attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLTW well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917 ☐

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337 ☐

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861 ☐

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks serious older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707 ☐

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681 ☐

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601 ☐

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521 ☐

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. s Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519 ☐

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499 ☐

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337 ☐

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTW attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299 ☐

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235 ☐

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197 ☐

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287 ☐

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057

Men seeking women

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SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTW lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259

PAUL 63, seeks attractive younger lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417121

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

ALAN 49, seeks lady for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413757

MALE 67, smoker, solvent, OHAC, seeking feminine voluptuous woman, 60-65 for days out, weekends away, holidays and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417043

RICHARD 44, single, happy go lucky, likes pubs, clubs, socialising, seeking female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416995 ☐

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481 ☐

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157

NICK 52, 6ft, slim, genuine, seeking slim female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415881 ☐

MALE 49, 6ft, seeks lady for discreet fun times. Must accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413819 ☐

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39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks female for fun times, maybe more. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395807

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335 ☐

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997 ☐

39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks single, slim lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396061 ☐

MIKE 47, 6ft, easygoing, kind, considerate, seeks female, 25-45 for friendship and outdoor activities. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396367 ☐

GENT 53, 5ft 11ins, brown eyes, distinguished, seeking attractive lady, 30-45 for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415809 ☐

ROBERT 6ft 4ins, blue eyes, brown hair, likes football, nights out, socialising, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417053 ☐

BLUE eyed male, black hair, 6ft 4ins, likes football, nights out, farming, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416341

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779 ☐

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481 ☐

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Blues boss Rowett is philosophical about losing

Watford 1 Blues 0
BIRMINGHAM boss Gary Rowett was philosophical after a defeat that saw opponents Watford go top of the Championship.

Craig Cathcart's second-half volley was enough to seal the points after a dogged Blues defence was finally beaten.

Rowett said: "Our aim was to come and stifle them a little bit, like it so often has been. That's the way we've played since we've come in and we don't feel at the minute we're able to be as expansive as we'd like.

"We can be at home, our home form is excellent, but away from home; we did it for 35 minutes against Bournemouth and caused them a lot of problems and perhaps couldn't reach those heights, but it was a more consistent performance.

"We made it difficult for Watford. They're a very good side and they try to play through you and they've got lots of great movement around the edge of the box which means you end up dropping deep and means you can't give space."

"But we hung on in. We were resilient, we kept going, we showed excellent character and just as we looked as we making the crowd get a little bit nervous we conceded a very poor goal."

The decisive goal at Vicarage Road came in the 56th minute when substitute Ikechi Anya crossed from the left and Cathcart sent a fine volleyed finish into the top corner past goalkeeper Darren Randolph.

Despite looking good in possession, it took the Hornets almost 20 minutes to begin to open up the Brumm defence..

Eight goals as Cradley in real battle

Willenhall 4 Cradley Town 4
THIS vital relegation six-pointer turned out to be a real ding-dong battle.

The Lockmen made the worst possible start when a simple ball over the top of the defence found Mark Bellingham to score.

Then it was 2-0 when another ball into the box found David Almond. Matt Dorgan pulled a goal back on 36 minutes.

Then former Lockman Chris Bladen fired home.

After the break and The Reds levelled again, as Dorgan curled a shot from 25 yards right into the goal.

On 54 minutes Cradley took the lead for a third time as Bladen raced clear onto a through ball and fired home his second.

The Lockmen levelled again through a Matt Dove penalty.

Perks says thanks for big welcome

ELLIS Perks has thanked the Cradley fans for the welcome they have given him to British Speedway.

Perks, whose great uncle Dave was a Dudley Wood legend, has piled up the points in Heathens colours since moving back to the UK from Australia.

Now the 18-year-old is looking forward to meeting up with supporters on a special evening for him at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Thursday May 21.

He missed out on Cradley's meet the riders night in March and is looking to meet up with fans at the club.

"I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and I'm sure it will be a great night at the Liberal Club," said Perks.

"I'm really pleased with how things are going at Cradley, because of my family links there I have some good sponsors and the fans have been brilliant to me.

"I hope lots of people can come down and enjoy the night with me, I'll be answering questions on the night and signing autographs. My merchandise will also be available."

The evening will be hosted by Cradley's very own Sky Sports broadcaster Nigel Pearson who will be asking the questions – and there will also be a fans Q&A.

Admission is £3 on the door and there will also be a raffle and auction of exclusive memorabilia.

Heathens go to Kent on Monday for their opening away meeting of the National League season.

They'll be at full strength for the trip to Sittingbourne and Perks can't wait.

He said: "Away points will be important, of course. This will be a big test but I can assure you all the guys will be up for the challenge of going there.

"I need to score as many points as I can when I'm at reserve because I know it will be a bit tougher in the main body of the team, but I have to remain confident then."

Heathens have a gap before their next home action at Perry Barr when they face Mildenhall on Wednesday May 13.

Last kick of game seals fate for Hales

Lichfield 29 Old Halesonians 28
FOLLOWING the euphoria of beating second placed Hinckley last week, Hales were not complacent as the game started.

Lichfield are not an easy team to beat at home and Hales were starting without a specialist tight head prop due to injuries and availability.

The game started with Hales in immediate control, after two minutes in open play, wing Luke Smith gathered and sprinted for the first try converted by Chris Hooper.

The home side came back after a scrum where the ball was mishandled by Hales, the Lichfield scrum half collecting and running in unopposed. The visitors again fought back with dominant phase play, scrum half Nathan Jones and fly half Matt Williams giving good service.

After nine minutes backs and forwards combined for a driving try by second row Guy Field, converted by Hooper.

From the restart, Hales again pressured although the home side were beginning to disrupt the Hales scrum.

Pressuring

From a lineout, scrum half Jones went over for a try converted by Hooper.

Hales prop Louis Padian then received a yellow card, replacement Bobby Moxon deputised. The second half saw Lichfield pressuring the visitors.

Hales then drove forward through Pete Fitzgerald, Tom Jordan, Loz Breese and Tom King. On 50mins Luke Smith collected a fumble and ran unopposed for a bonus point try, converted by Hooper.

Lichfield began to fight back. The home side scored three converted tries in quick succession to pull the score back to 26-28.

On the 80 minutes the referee called a foul play in a ruck just inside the Hales' half. This was the opportunity for Lichfield to kick for goal to win.

The last kick of the game sailed over for a 29-28 victory to Lichfield.

Old Hales meet Whitchurch in the final of the North Midlands Cup on Sunday May 10 at Dudley Kingswinford. Kick-off to be confirmed.

Cradley battle to victory at home



Cradley's Ellis Perks and Michael Neale hit the front.

Picture John Hiphiss

CRADLEY emerged unscathed from another fiercely-contested National League encounter as they battled to a 48-41 win over Eastbourne at Perry Barr.

A fortnight after getting their title defence off to a victorious start against Coventry, Will Pottinger's side were again forced to dig deep before edging an entertaining clash against the unbeaten Eagles. The Heathens certainly

did not have things all their own way as they threw away a number of points, particularly early on.

Reserve Michael Neale fell while on a 5-1 with Ellis Perks in heat two and Nathan Graves hit the deck as he tried to fend off Bradley Wilson-Dean in heat four.

His fall saw Eastbourne strike the first of back-to-back maximums to turn the meeting on its head after Cradley had struck

a fine maximum in the opening race. Skipper Max Clegg also blasted through the tapes in the initial running of heat six while Perks endured bike troubles while leading.

Cradley 48: Arron Mogridge 11, Max Clegg 9+1, Nathan Graves 8+1, Matt Williamson 8, Ellis Perks 5+1, Michael Neale 5, Luke Harris 2+1
Eastbourne 41: Bradley Wilson-Dean 13, Darryl Ritchings 11, David Mason 7, Kelsey Dugard 5+2, Richard Andrews 4+1, George Wood 1+1.

Swimmers face up to tough battle in Round 1

Nuneaton Jr League Round 1
JUNIOR swimmers from Halesowen made the trip to Nuneaton for the first round of the junior league first division at the weekend.

By the halfway mark it as clear fifth spot beckoned and despite some battling performances the team were unable to improve further by the end of the gala.

The only individual winner on the night was Job Bailey in the boys age 10 and under backstroke.

Runners-up in individual events were Hannah Willis, breaststroke and freestyle; Jacob Smith, breaststroke and Anthony Demitry, butterfly.

The boys age nine relay team including Theo Evans, Jack Everton and William Walker grabbed second spot in medley and freestyle events with the boys age 10 team including Adam Ryan, Noah Taylor and Jamie Worton also securing second spot.

Special mention also goes to Darcy Crump and Anthony Demitry.

Final scores Nuneaton & Bedworth 284, Stourbridge A 201, Braunstone 198, Chase 192, Halesowen 127, Leicester Sharks B 118, **Worcester Winter League A Final**

Halesowen travelled to Droitwich for the A final. The team finished fourth overall in the League.

Star of the show was Josh Bradley with wins in backstroke and breaststroke.

Other individual winners were Chloe Finch, Kate Morrice and Mark Laing in the Freestyle and Lily Merrell in the breaststroke.

Final scores were Worcs A 208, Redditch A 170, Stourbridge A 169, Halesowen 145, Worcester B 102.

Old Hales fightback to share spoils

Old Halesonians 3rds 17
Stourbridge 2nds 17

THIS was a hard fought battle from start to finish.

Stourbridge attacked down the right to score the first try.

From the second half kick-off Stourbridge attacked culminating in a try close to the corner flag.

A kick and chase ended in the referee awarding Stourbridge a penalty try.

The conversion was successful.

Old Hales knew that they had to pull something out of the bag.

Scrum half George Eccles stepped over the try line to score. Tromans slotted over the conversion.

Nathan Newman raced 40 metres to score. The last score of the game came fro Leon Naif. The conversion was missed. Stourbridge 3rds 14 Old Hales 4ths 43

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Give young a chance, Sherwood

VILLA manager Tim Sherwood thinks younger players should get more of a chance in the Premier League.

Following a stellar performance from 19-year-old midfielder Jack Grealish in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final victory over Liverpool at Wembley, Sherwood believes other youngsters could make the difference for top-tier clubs – if they have the nerve to show faith in them.

He said: "I think we can be too cautious with young players. I've come from that background of developing, so I know what it takes to get an opportunity. I always look at the young boys, see those good enough and who has the right mentality to step up.

"It's important that the clubs don't give them too much too early, keep them hungry, and wait until they get on the pitch and start performing before you reward them. I think Jack Grealish is a good example of that, and there are other examples at Aston Villa and throughout the Premier League who should be getting an opportunity.

He added: "The lifespan of a manager isn't very long, their heads are on the block, so they hire the player with an 'I' or 'O' at the end of their name. I don't blame them, but I think there are kids underneath who are good enough to compete."

Talking about Grealish, Sherwood said the youngster had confidence, and that he'd never been overawed by his place in the first team.

Sherwood said: "He receives the ball and dribbles it around people. They kick lumps out of him because he's so confident.

"The ball is his friend, it sticks to his foot. The more opportunities he gets, the better he's going to become."

George build up and hold the lead for home victory

Warwick & Worcester

Premier Division 1

The George 232 Maggies BC 179
THE George built up a 21-shot lead in the first four with wins from Peter Davenport and Shane Day (both 21-13). Paul Hemming (21-17) and Elliot McGuinness (21-20).

A tight middle four saw wins from Marc Wilson (21-11) and Jamie Dunn (21-19) but the lead was reduced to 19 shots.

In the back four there were big wins from Alan Belcher (21-5), Steve Dicken (21-7) and a 21-15 win from Stewart Meddings gave The George victory by 53 shots.

South Staffs Premier Division Windmill 214 The George 178

The second put up a good display during the match despite going down to a 36-shot defeat away at Windmill BC. Steve Pawlowski (21-7) and Dave Hoffman (21-12) impressed with their playing for The George.

Warwick & Worcester

Alliance Division 1

West Brom FSC. 221 The George 190

Captain praises rising star Johal

FAISAL Shadid has sung the praises of Halesowen's talented teenager Juhar Johal ahead of this weekend's Birmingham League opener.

The club skipper saw his 16-year-old rising star hit an unbeaten 54 as Halesowen beat Smethwick in their final warm-up game.

Now they are preparing to go to Tamworth on Saturday, midday start, with the seconds facing their Tamworth counterparts at Seth Somers Park.

The home side were restricted to just 182 all out with Navdeep Poonia and Mo Sheikh both hitting half centuries.

The wickets were shared amongst the Halesowen bowlers with Eddie Rhodes, Rich Brooker and Zain Shahid all bagging a brace.

Cricket

The run chase was led by Johal, on his first XI debut, who scored an undefeated 54 and the total was chased down for the loss of six wickets with an over to spare.

Back at the home ground the second XI were making light work of their Smethwick counterparts who looked considerably under strength.

Mark Hutchinson scored 50 for the second successive week and was joined by Andy Roberts and

Scott Jones with half centuries.

New boy Richard Thurston fell four short of 50 in his first appearance for the club. In reply Smethwick never looked like chasing down the total of 265 although Sajid scored a useful unbeaten 50 lower down the order.

Sunday saw Dorridge CC visit in the National T20 Knock Out and a patched up Halesowen side, batting first, posted a competitive looking 170 with useful lower order runs from Richard Brooker and Eddie Rhodes boosting the total.

Dodd's unbeaten 88 saw Dorridge reach the total with some ease and with two overs to spare.

Tivs keep unbeaten run going

Tivdale 1 Spalding 1

TIVIDALE extended their impressive unbeaten run to a dozen games by fighting back for a 1-1 draw at home to play-off contenders Spalding.

A cagey start saw the only early goal threats a couple of long-range efforts by Tivdale's Leigh Downing and Sam Williams.

Spalding's Jamie Thurlbourne had an effort from 25 yards comfortably saved by Tivdale keeper Charlie Price.

Tivdale slowly began to take the upper hand and Zach Foster's 22nd-minute free-kick was turned around the post by Spalding keeper Alex Pycock.

But Spalding struck on 36 minutes. A long throw was headed on by Nathan Stainsfield and was only cleared as far as striker Matt Nolan who nodded past Price from three yards out.

Spalding now had their tails up and could have been 2-0 up on 44 minutes when Tom Waumsley blazed over with the goal at his mercy. Tivdale responded and on 53 minutes Karl Edwards latched on to a long clearance and lobbed Pycock only to see his effort go wide.

Tivdale now had the possession without the breakthrough, until on 76 minutes a cross from Danny Ashton was headed across at the back post by Nigel Penney for Edwards to volley home from six yards.

Tivi nearly bagged a winner when Archer beat Pycock to a long ball and set up Edwards only for the scrambling keeper to turn the shot round the post.

Tivdale: Charlie Price, Chris Field, Zach Foster, Mitchell Botfield, Andy Parsons, Luke Paskin, Nigel Penney, Sam Williams David Bellis, Karl Edwards, Leigh Downing, Jordan Archer, Daniel Priest, Danny Ashton.

Unused subs: 13 Paul Evans, 14 Richard Huckfield

Five-a-side contest in aid of charity

FOOTBALL teams can put their skills to the test in a five-a-side competition in Dudley next month.

Gurcharan & Herjinder Khanpur Bhujhangy presents the Kick for Clic Sargent children with cancer charity.

The knockout format kicks off at 11.30am on May 31, at Goals Blackheath, Dudley. Cost is £70 for up to seven players.

For details call Gurcharan & Herjinder Bhujhangy on 07762521584. To donate, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Gurcharan-Herjinder-Bhujhangy-Kick-For-Clic-Sargent-Football-Tournament-2015>.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford. Thursday, April 23, 2015

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DEPLETED YELTZ PAY THE PRICE

Curzon Ashton 4 Halesowen 1

DEPLETED Halesowen, who travelled with only 14 players, were always going to struggle against high-flying Curzon Ashton, who sealed their place in the Evo-Stik Premier play-offs with this win.

An early penalty made the Yeltz's task harder when Joe Guest was bundled over in the box and Sam Walker stepped up to convert the spot-kick. Shortly after, Iyseden Christie should have done better when he got behind the home defence but his finish was tame.

Substitute Thomas Souvemanian and Niall Cummins both went close to increasing Curzon's lead in the first half.

Christie looked the most dangerous for Halesowen and he forced a save from Hakan Burton which he claimed had gone over the line, but the referee waved away his claim signalling for the game to carry on.

Equaliser

Halesowen were looking the better side a lot of the time and got their equaliser in the 58th minute when the ball fell kindly for David Meese whose shot took a deflection as it made its way into the net.

But Curzon regained the lead when a free-flowing move involving Guest resulted in Ashley Stott pulling his shot past Matt Sargent in the Halesowen goal.

They extended this on 70 minutes when substitute Ryan Brooke found some space and lashed the ball in from 20 yards out.

He also in action later on in the game when he went close just after but hit the side netting. Alex Brown ended any hopes of Halesowen getting back into the game though when he scored the fourth just before the whistle went for the end of the match.

Team: Sargeant; Green; Griffiths; Forde; Hull (c); Tilt; Charlton (Lloyd 70); Meese; Christie; Granville; Bragoli

Unused Subs: Haseley; Watson

Attendance:167

DK left reeling again with loss



DK's Russ Gauden charges forward during the match against Sandbach

DK 17 Sandbach 43

DK delivered their best first quarter of the season, camped in the Sandbach half and pounding at their defensive line to find weaknesses.

Sandbach gave away a penalty, which was taken quickly and before the defence could set itself Danny Hawkins had powered over the line.

Jamie Hearn made it 7-0 with the conversion.

Another penalty after 13 minutes and Jamie Hearn extended the lead to 10-0.

A further penalty led to Sandbach getting on the scoreboard. Forbes Edwardsthen ran the

ball in from his own 22, no conversion.

In the second half both Sandbach increased their lead to 10-22 with a goal and a penalty.

But DK rallied and a Jamie Hearn run saw him put Liam Marshall into space which lead to a try.

Hearn converted. It was 17-22 and once again the loyal fans, thinking here we go however, like so many of DK's previous games it was not to be.

Sandbach steadied their ship and added three late tries to make the score 17-43, taking full advantage of the wind and their pace to finish their opportunities and leave DK reeling from yet another defeat.

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